



COUNCIL MEETING **MINUTES**

18 AUGUST 2026

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION
CENTRE (CAC)



MINUTES

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION CENTRE (CAC), 47 COLE STREET,
SORELL ON 18 AUGUST 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
Chief Executive Officer R Higgins
General Manager Operations J Hinchin

3.0 APOLOGIES

[^](#)

Councillor B Shaw
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.



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5.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 21 JULY 2026



RECOMMENDATION

"That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st July 2026 be confirmed."

112/2026 NICHOLS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

6.0 MAYOR'S REPORT



RECOMMENDATION

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

113/2026 REED/REYNOLDS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

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 2025*."

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
4 th August 2026	▪ NRM EAG TOR review ○ Current TOR (attached) ○ Memo from Councillor Read (attached) ○ Proposed approach is to – ▪ put revised TOR to the Aug Council meeting. ▪ seek feedback at this workshop on any issues or Councillor requests; ▪ run full membership EOI process during Sep – Oct; ▪ adopt new members and Councillor reps at Nov Council meeting. ▪ Policies – ○ Update on status on policy reviews by CEO on behalf of Leadership Team ▪ Operational update – ○ Meeting with Building Tas re: Arthur Hwy projects and Sorell Rivulet Bridge replacement ○ Delayed footpath projects – Gatehouse, Carlton River, Carlton Beach ▪ Councillor Items ○ Negative Dog-Related Experiences in Public Areas community survey – receipt of email - Councillor Miro Quesada ○ Use of Council comms / assets during LG election campaign period – Councillor Miro Quesada ○ Motion on Notice – Councillor Reed - ALGWA 75th Anniversary meeting and Governor General reception ○ 1967 Fires Commemoration – Councillor Torenus	Gatehouse, Larkins, Nichols, Torenus, Reynolds, Reed	Miro Quesada, Shaw, Campbell



9.0 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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10.0 COUNCILLOR MOTIONS ON NOTICE

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10.1 MOTION ON NOTICE – COUNCILLOR MELINDA REED

1. That Council notes the Governor-General's reception in Canberra on 24 June 2026, hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Australian Local Government Women's Association and attended by Councillor Melinda Reed.
2. That Council acknowledges the Sorell community's leadership in progressing women's participation in local government, including electing Shiela Clark in 1960 and 1962, the first woman to serve as a Sorell Councillor; electing three female mayors since 1994; and electing a majority of women candidates in 2018 and 2022.

114/2026 REED/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**



11.0 WORKGROUP REPORTS



RECOMMENDATION

"That the workgroup reports as listed be received."

115/2026 LARKINS/CAMPBELL

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

12.0 PETITIONS STILL BEING ACTIONED



Petition	Tabled at Council Meeting	Status
Withdrawal of the Blue Lagoon Draft Management Plan	18 th July 2023 ordinary Council meeting – S.58(2) LGA 1993.	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. Final consultant reports received April 2024. 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. Exchange of all project materials expanded to relevant state and federal agencies.



		Engagement with NRM EAG has also occurred. 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. Preferred design concept has been distributed for community engagement, Reserve Management Plan to be updated and endorsed with revised EPBC process to be undertaken concurrently. CERMP project and funding has closed and so is no longer available for this. Original petition matter from July 2023 to then be finalised to tie in with RMP update and endorsement.
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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") Meetings of 4th and 11th August 2026 be noted."

116/2026 LARKINS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**



15.0 GOVERNANCE



Nil reports.

16.0 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS



Nil reports.

17.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS



17.1 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolve to endorse the revised and updated Terms of Reference for the Natural Resource Management Advisory Group as attached."

117/2026 TORENIUS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**



18.0 FINANCE**18.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 2026 YTD****RECOMMENDATION**

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

118/2026 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

18.2 2026-2027 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 2026/2027 Capital Budget estimates."

119/2026 LARKINS/CAMPBELL

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

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 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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22.1 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC TAKEN ON NOTICE AT PREVIOUS MEETING

Sharon Fotheringham asked;

1. Would Council please submit a report to Air Services Australia by 16/8 requesting current Rec 4. decision to leave flight path RNP-AR which is directly over Primrose Sands, Carlton River and Forcett be reversed and original Rec 4 be implemented i.e. move the path 3 kms to the east.

CEO Response:

A letter has been sent to Air Services Australia on 13th August. Refer to response below to Andrew Terhorst for further details.

2. Would Council please submit a report to Hobart Airport Management requesting they review their newly implemented CACG guidelines that drastically restrict Sorell Municipality residents for advocating on over 7000+ residents negatively impacted by flight paths and airport noise.

The document tendered to you at the Council meeting about the presentation I gave at the 9/7/26 CACG meeting will provide facts. The Mayor may assist you on this issue. I have submitted an appeal to the Chairperson Jan Newman. Their revised guidelines are in direct opposition to Federal guidelines.

CEO Response:

Contact has been made with Hobart Airport Corporation (HAC) accordingly to advise on behalf of the community representation that their CACG Terms of Reference (TOR) are contrary to the Commonwealth's revised guidelines, in particular that community member attendance should not be restricted to one per group, and that the HAC review their CACG TOR accordingly.

HAC have advised their TOR are consistent with the Commonwealth's revised guidelines to encourage inclusive participation, while balancing membership to ensure adequate views across the community are represented.

HAC have further advised the Chair of the CACG has not indicated a requirement to update the TOR given they were updated in June 2026 and only one CACG meeting has occurred since adoption.



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3. Is it possible to provide statistics as to how many permanent residents reside at Connelly's Marsh and how many are shackies?

CEO Response:

On Census night in 2021, Connellys Marsh had 22 occupied private dwellings and 27 unoccupied private dwellings, for a total of 51 private dwellings enumerated.

It is not possible to determine from the Census data whether the 27 unoccupied dwellings were holiday homes ("shacks") or were temporarily unoccupied on Census night.

Please note that these figures are based on small cell data that has been randomised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to protect respondent confidentiality. Consequently, the data should be treated as indicative only and interpreted with caution.



22.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NOTICE

Andrew Terhorst of Primrose Sands asks:

Will the Council write to Airservices asking why the grounds ultimately used to refuse Recommendation 4 — the cumulative-impact assessment and the finding that the Noise Abatement Procedure would not work in the relocated position — were developed only after community consultation closed, when the relocated path's design, including its proximity to the existing approach, was already fixed and known to Airservices before the community was consulted?

Mr Terhorst also requested tabling of the submission from the Carlton River, Primrose Sands and Forcett Flight Path Opponents Group (attached separately to the agenda).

CEO Response:

A letter has been sent to Air Services Australia on 13th August. It sought to strike a reasoned and considered approach taking into account the other related question on notice, Council's involvement in the review process to date obo the community and, that another community association is supportive of the decision not to implement Recommendation 4. The letter contents are as per:

I am writing to you regarding the recent determination to not progress Preferred Design Option Recommendation 4 to implementation.

Council acknowledges that the two community associations formed from the Hobart Airspace Design Review have expressed different responses to this determination.

I respectfully submit that based on the prior materials, evidence and rationale provided by Air Services Australia in support of Recommendation 4, the determination could be considered unanticipated.

Council has received representations from one of the community associations requesting assistance in seeking a response from Air Services Australia as per:

- *Why the grounds used to refuse Recommendation 4 were developed after community consultation closed when the relocated path's design, including its proximity to the existing approach, was already fixed and known to Air Services Australia before the community was consulted?*



Thank you for your ongoing assistance in this matter.

Marina Campbell of Dodges Ferry asks;

The Southern Beaches community believes securing Ferry Hall is an important opportunity to provide for its future needs while preserving its history. Will the Council commit to working with the Department for Education Children and Young People and the Southern Beaches community to genuinely investigate relocating Ferry Hall for future use for our community.

CEO Response:

Following a Question on Notice at the December 2025 Annual General Meeting from Diana Shaw of Dodges Ferry, Elizabeth Perey of Sorell and Chris Cowles of Connelly's Marsh (The Sorell Municipality Local Greens), Council committed to considering a recommendation at its December 2025 Ordinary Meeting to undertake a structured community engagement process in 2026 to determine:

- the community's need for a community facility;
- the preferred type and uses of any such facility;
- whether existing facilities, either Council-owned or otherwise, could meet the identified needs; and
- whether refurbishment, relocation or construction of a new facility should be explored.

At the December 2025 Ordinary Meeting, Council subsequently endorsed a recommendation *"to undertake community engagement to assess the need for an additional community facility in the Southern Beaches, to be undertaken in 2026."*

This community engagement was undertaken during March 2026. Feedback received through the consultation process was collated and communicated through a consultation report, which was shared with the community. The report provided a summary of the feedback received and outlined the next steps Council would progress.

The recommendations arising from the consultation report, as supported by Council, included the following:

1. **Gain a better understanding of the current condition of Ferry Hall**
A Building Surveyor has completed an initial assessment for Council and identified no obvious issues that would prevent the building from being relocated. Further investigation would be required to assess the floor framing and provide a more accurate cost estimate. Clarification of these costs, along with any other potential issues



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associated with relocation, would depend on a suitable relocation site being identified. At this stage, no suitable site has been identified. Further, subject to the future use of the building and associated capacity, the estimated cost to bring the building into compliance with current standards will need to be established.

2. Continue to consider the broader community facility needs identified through the Southern Beaches Plan

This work remains ongoing, with the second stage of community consultation nearing completion. As part of this process, a dedicated Social Infrastructure Needs Workshop was also held with key stakeholders to further explore community facility and infrastructure needs across the Southern Beaches area.

3. Further explore existing community spaces and opportunities within the area, including Forcett Hall

This work also remains ongoing as Council considers how existing facilities and spaces may contribute to meeting identified community needs.

This work has not been finalised. Council will continue to progress the actions arising from the community consultation and the Southern Beaches Plan process and will continue to work with DECYP and the community regarding the future of Ferry Hall, consistent with the commitments made at previous Council meetings.

22.3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC WITHOUT NOTICE

Sharon Fotheringham from Forcett asked if it was possible to receive copies of the letters sent to Air Services Australia and Hobart Airport and responses received.

The CEO advised that the content of the letter is in the agenda as a response to Andrew Terhorsts question on notice. The CEO advised that he had received an email response from Air Services Australia that he was yet to review and will provide if appropriate to.

Sharon further questioned if action could be taken on a dog complaint that she has initiated.

The CEO advised that this is an operational matter that he would take on notice and deal with appropriately outside of the meeting.

Sharon further asked if Ferry Hall is being relocated to Forcett Hall.

The CEO advised that this is not about relocating Ferry Hall to Forcett Hall. Rather, community feedback received through the consultation process



has indicated a desire for Forcett Hall to once again be considered for use as a community facility.

Bob Brakey from Dunalley questioned if the CEO about his meeting with Building Tasmania and was the next stage of the Arthur Highway upgrades discussed and active transport provisions.

The CEO advised that he met with Building Tasmania and their consultants in late July regarding the design and community engagement for the proposed Arthur Highway upgrades. The projects currently being considered were discussed, including the Dunalley footpath, which forms part of the first round of proposed works and is yet to be designed and costed.

Marina Campbell of Dodges Ferry asked if Council would genuinely commit to forming a working group with the community and DECYP to work towards returning Ferry Hall to the community.

The CEO advised that he would take this on notice to consider.

Annita Waghorn from Dodges Ferry asked if Council could confirm if Ferry Hall is due to be assessed by a Heritage Assessor and who has been engaged to undertake the assessment.

The CEO advised two parties had been approached; one was unavailable and no longer doing heritage assessments and the other party was of the view that it wouldn't qualify for inclusion in the local provisions schedule or alternatively under the Tasmanian Heritage Register. At this stage we have been unable to secure anyone to undertake a Heritage Assessment.

Katy Egger from the Steiner School Dodges Ferry expressed interest in obtaining Ferry Hall and have a potential site at the school for this.

A resident of Dodges Ferry asked if Council see a potential role for Ferry Hall into the future.

The Mayor advised that there absolutely needs to be a place of gathering for the community and we are not ruling out Ferry Hall. Cost and where it would be placed are big considerations, but it is still on the table.

Sharon Kent of Dodges Ferry suggested Ferry Hall being relocated and remain in the Okines area and be utilised by the school and the community.

The Mayor advised that this had been discussed with the Project Team DECYP previously, but she would confirm the outcome of that conversation.



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Sharon further questioned who has been engaged to undertake that building assessment of Ferry Hall and when will the report be available.

The Mayor advised that the assessment was being done on Friday but is unsure of who is undertaking this, but the report will be provided once available.

Marina Campbell questioned what work has actively been done to investigate potential sites for Ferry Hall.

The General Manager Operations advised that the consultant undertaking the assessment on Friday was a relocation specialist who will look at the feasibility and practicality of actually relocating the building. This would be the first step and from that potential relocation sites may be considered.

The GMO also advised that she would discuss with the Manager Community Relations a suitable way for communicating these discussions outside of the formal Council meetings.

Dierdre Biggar of Dodges Ferry asked who is expected to be paying for the relocation of Ferry Hall.

The Mayor advised that it would become a Council asset and Council would take on responsibility.

Sharon Fotheringham commented that Council had previously been approached to take over Forcett Hall but, had indicated it was not interested in taking on any additional community halls. She asked what had changed since then.

The GMO advised that she would take this question on notice as she would need to look into the circumstances of this.

23.0 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 21 July 2026 - <i>Regulation 40(3)</i>
24.2	Disclosure of confidential information – <i>Regulation 17(7)</i>
24.3	Tender Seg-a-001 Growth Area Master Plan, Infrastructure Funding Framework and Rezoning – <i>Regulation 17(2)(e)</i>
24.4	General Manager Performance Review and Appointment – <i>Regulation 17(2)(a)</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.

120/2026 NICHOLS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

The open meeting concluded at 7.43 pm.

Councillor Campbell left the meeting.



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.*



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24.0 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



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