

# Derwent Valley Council

Annual Report 2014 - 2015





# Introduction

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires every Council in Tasmania to produce an Annual Report. This gives an opportunity for Council to formally advise the community of some of its achievements and challenges in the last year and review areas we need to improve upon.

This concludes the annual corporate planning and reporting cycle of the Derwent Valley Council each year.

This report covers the period of the 2014 – 2015 financial year.

It is specifically required by the Local Government Act 1993 that Council report on:

- The context in which Council worked;
- An organisational overview;
- Council's operations, our achievements;
- The key activities and priorities identified in the budget; and;
- A set of audited standard, financial and performance statements.

The report contains a series of chapters, each devoted to a particular section of Council, and an explanation of how these sections interact within the Derwent Valley Council structure.

The report also contains audited standard, financial and performance statements. This shows how monies raised via rates, charges, fees and from grants received have been expended.

Each year Council, in consultation with the community prepares an annual Budget within the context of the actions identified in the Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015. The Strategic Plan and Budget are used to inform the decisions and actions of Council for the coming year.

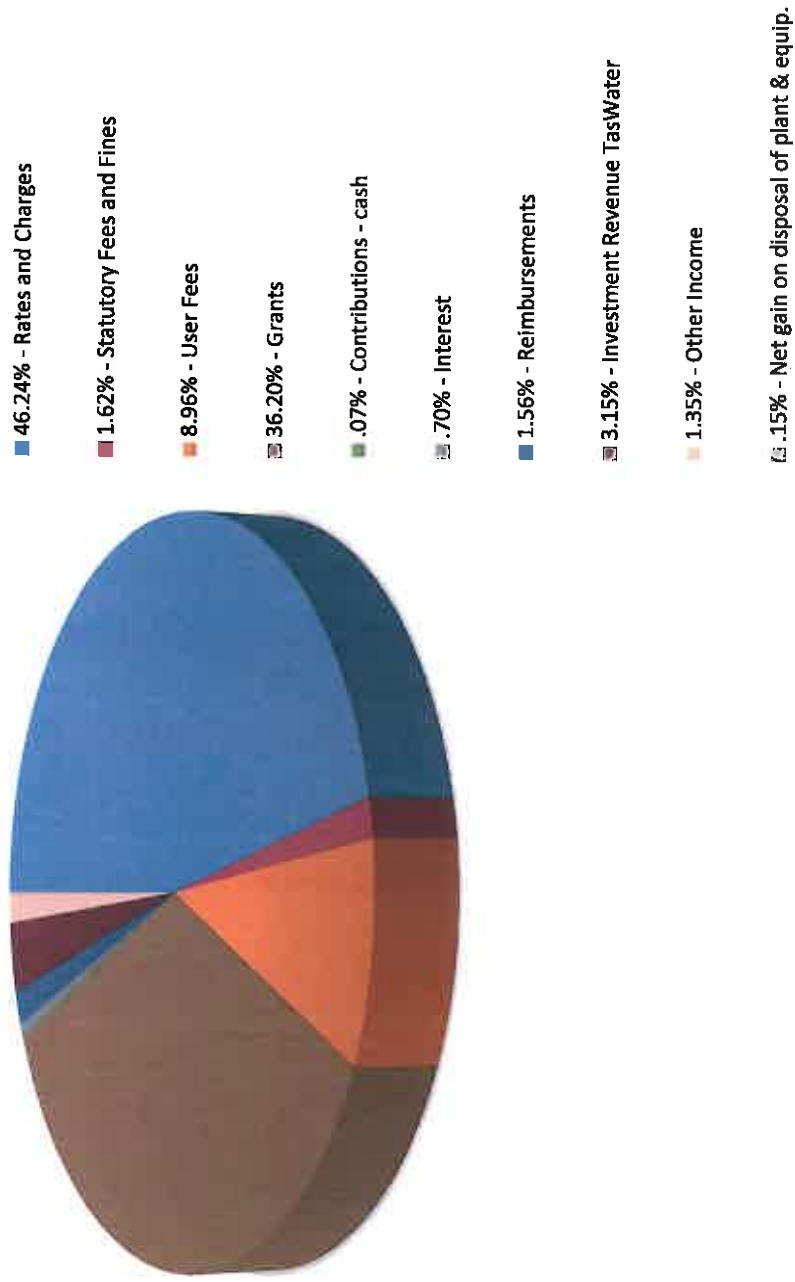
Derwent Valley Council values the input of the community.

## Fast Facts and Income and Expenditure Graphs

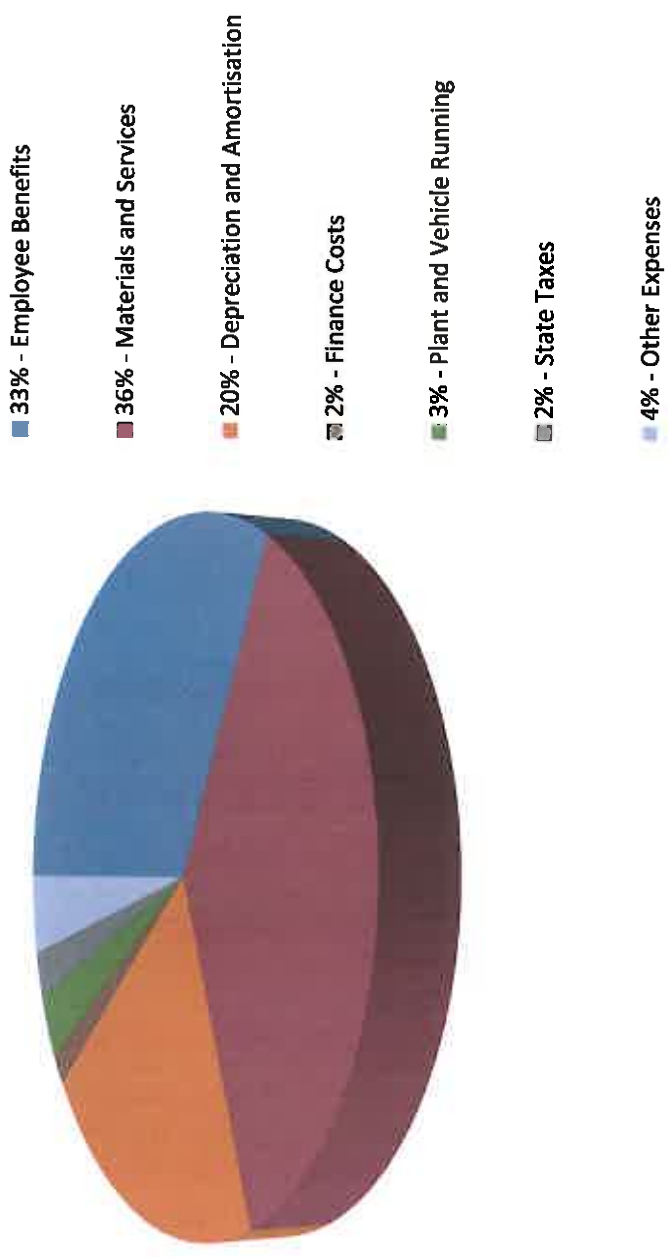
- Municipal area: 4,111 sq km
- Total population: 9,708
- Population of New Norfolk: 5,244
- Average population density: 2.46 persons per sq km
- Men: 4,935
- Women: 4,773
- Average Household size: 2.5
- Median weekly household income: \$869
- Median monthly mortgage payment: \$1,200
- Median weekly rent: \$185
- Number Registered Local Businesses: 466
- Number Employed Local Residents: 4,044
- Number Local Jobs: 2,329
- Number Building Permits Issued: 88 – totalling \$11,624,763 in value
- Number Development Applications Received: 158 – totalling \$20,224,780 in value Consisting of  
 Residential Applications: 94 – totalling \$10,168,825 in value  
 Commercial Applications: 20 – totalling \$8,758,350 in value  
 Subdivision Applications: 17 – no costs available  
 Other Applications: 27 (includes all applications that do not fall into the above categories – totalling - \$1,297,605)

- Number of bridges inspected by AusSpan - 74
- Total length of council maintained roads is 333km consisting of 97km of sealed roads and 236km of unsealed roads
- The number of rated properties in the municipal area is 5,397
- Area of world heritage area: 2,789 sq km
- Total area of Public Reserves: 3,266 sq km
- Number council operated cemeteries - 3
- Number of burials in council operated cemeteries - 73
- Consisting of
  - Malbina - 64
  - Red Hills - 8
  - Tyenna - 1
- Number of council owned swimming pools - 2
- Public BBQs available for hire - 8 (Tynwald Park, Gleeson Park and the Esplanade)
- Council supplies public toilets in the following locations: Circle Street/Arthur Square/Tynwald/Esplanade/Gleeson Park/Granton/Millbrook Rise/Fitzgerald Park/Maydena

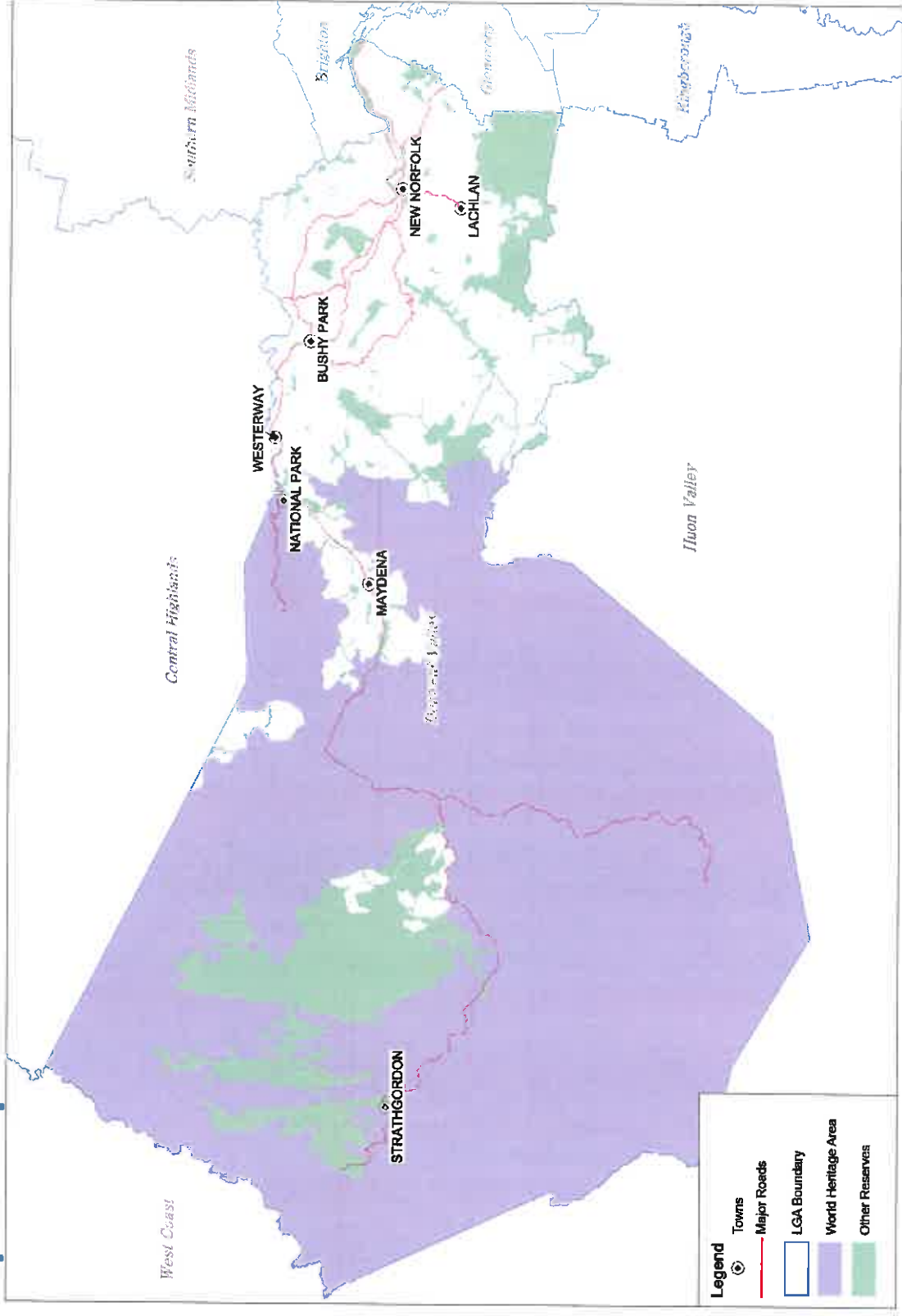
### Where The Dollars Came From: Total income from continuing operations \$12,854,868



**Where The Dollars Went: Total expenses from continuing operations \$11,495,537**



# Municipal Map





## Message from the Mayor

Tasmania's Derwent Valley the place to live work play visit and invest is our message to our residents and to the rest of the world.

To continue to put the Derwent valley as a brand of significance is our aim working collectively and collaboratively with our stakeholders community and government's to achieve our goals

The past twelve months has been one interest in many ways the new State and federal governments have settled in to their respective terms of office to enable council to continue to build relationships with the opportunity to put the Derwent Valley front and center to show the potential of this amazing valley.

October 2015 was the first time that all in all out elections were held across Tasmania with no experience required for mayors and deputy mayors. It was encouraging to so many candidates putting their hand up to represent our people and the Derwent Valley.

In the end a new council of elected members was formed with approximately half being new councillors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those councillors that were unsuccessful for their contributions to the Derwent valley over their terms of office.

To our new Council I would like to thank you for your efforts in this short period of time to be able to come together and work cohesively to represent our valley and at all times keeping your own views.



2015 was and is a year filled with achievements and ongoing opportunities but we cannot sit idle now we must continue to not only look at today but to think long term about the valley and its people long after we have gone.

I must make mention council has been through the recruitment process for a new general manager with the retirement of our long serving General Manager Mr Stephen Mackey. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you Steve for your dedication and hard work for over fifteen years in the Derwent valley and over twenty five years in local government.

I would also like to announce that Mr Greg Winton has been appointed as the new general manager of the Derwent valley. Greg comes with vast experience and passion and we wish him well.

### Education

The aim of establishing a years 11 and 12 offer in the Derwent Valley came to fruition and 2016 will see the classes at New Norfolk High School in a newly renovated spaces, giving our young people the opportunities that they deserve to continue to learn and work towards achieving there TCE .

The announcement of the soon to be built Fairview Early Years Learning Centre will be of the utmost importance. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Derwent Valley Learning Precinct for their ongoing hard work to create educational excellence within our valley.

### **Agriculture and agri tourism**

2015 has seen a continuation of this growing sector with the expansion of cherries, berries and dairies driving economic growth within the region. Our world class wines beers whiskey and non alcoholic beverages continue to grow with people wanting quality product. The hop fields continue to expand to their former glory of yesteryear to become one of the biggest within the southern hemisphere. The sale of Hayes Kilderry farm has also created excitement within the agri sector. Council continues to work with the developer eagerly awaited a development application towards 2016.

### **Infrastructure and economic growth**

During 2014/2015 Council set up Economic and Growth Special Committee to work with the sector.

This year has been one of substantial investment from the private sector with projects like the new Woolworth store up and running. The commencement of a brand new Mitre 10 the announcement of the Dirt Art proposal at Maydena, a sports precinct proposal, the

possible relocation of the rowing club, train/railway proposal the Forest Secrets proposal at National Park and tree top walk proposal to name a few. It's definitely exciting times for our valley.

Heritage: on a pleasing note the restoration and preservation works during stage one at Willow Court are almost complete and what a stunning site it is to see the Barracks brought back to life. Across the road Frascati House is also looking a picture with new paint, an unearthed pond, amazing hedge and possibly the old grapevine in Australia. All this would not have been possible without the continued hard work and dedication of the Friends of Frascati.

2015 saw the Flinders university students on site at Willow Court cataloguing and exploring the site headed up by Assistant Professor Heather Burke which created added interest to the site and the commitment to return yearly with field schools with students from all over Australia. But the most important news is of the National Heritage Listing application for Willow Court and Frascati. The Council will be following this process closely to get this national treasure listed.

Finally as with previous years we have some challenges but I would like to think the Derwent Valley has rounded the corner. Now we must work collaborative with all tiers of government, investors and our people to make our Derwent Valley the most spectacular place to live work and play.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our many volunteers and hardworking committees without help and time we

would be lost. To my Councillors let's continue to work together to create the best place in the world.

To our staff indoor and outdoor thank you, you are an amazing team that goes above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis. Your pride and passion for the Derwent Valley are second to none so once again thank you.

**OUR STRENGTH LIES WITH OUR PEOPLE**



**Martyn Evans**  
**Mayor**

# Message from the General Manager



## **Willow Court**

After many delays the works commenced on the Barracks and Bronte Building have now finally been completed, thanks to the urging of the Willow Court Conservation Special Committee. The next task will be for the Council and the new committee members to refocus and pursue sustainable uses for the now upgraded buildings.

Also during the year Council with the help of Malcolm McDonald from Malcolm McDonald and Associates and Councillor Bester completed the application for listing the Willow Court Precinct on the National Heritage Register.

The next stage of development of the site should look at substantial upgrading of the Frescati Building, or if funds are not available then looking at low cost options for its protection.

## **Woolworths**

After many years of frustration with the old Woolworths Store, Council and the community can now see the benefits of the sale of the Oval Space in Willow Court to a local developer. This store is far superior to the previous store and at the moment appears to be stocking the shelves with the same products that other communities have been able to purchase for years.

## **Derwent Valley Men's Shed**

After some teething problems with Community House and the Tree2Sea project the Derwent Valley Men's shed is now up and running and undertaking numerous fundraising events, one in particular was the erection of outdoor furniture and Gazebos for the new Bunning Store at Glenorchy.

## **Burnet Street (Old Banjo's Site)**

After many frustrating months of negotiations Council was able to lease this site from the current owners for the use as a grassed park area, with table and chairs to be installed. Works have commenced on the development of the site and once this is completed grassing of the site will be undertaken. It should be pointed out that if the owner of the site can find a commercial development for the site then council will be required to relinquish its lease so the development can occur.

## **Crown Land (Caravan Park)**

After years of negotiations and the removal of the reserve status by the Crown on this parcel of land, will now enable Council to look at

the long term future of this site, currently managed on a year by year basis. Options available to Council could be for a long term lease or Council can continue with a similar option re management of the site that currently exists.

### **Local Government Amalgamations**

The State Government in the last few months has been having discussions with Local Government in regard to possible voluntary mergers. Derwent Valley Council is not opposed to considering mergers as long as it is to the benefit of our community. Council wrote to the Mayors of Brighton Council, Central Highlands Council, Glenorchy City Council and Southern Midlands Council. Most of the Council were prepared to discuss the issue, but felt that resource sharing would be more beneficial to Council's and our communities.

During the year there have been some discussions on loss of income from some Government Business Enterprises such as Forestry Tasmania. This loss of income is based on a large parcel of their land now being classified as reserves. This has meant a fairly significant reduction of rate income for this council and several others. The matter of non- payment of rates by some Government Business Enterprises is a matter that has concerned council for a number of years. This Council has on several occasions raised the matter at the Local Government Association General Meetings, unfortunately to no avail at this stage. This matter should not be left on the shelf as this Council would benefit from these businesses paying their fair share.

In conclusion, I wish to sincerely thank all staff for their support over the past twelve months and for their commitment to Council and the community. The commitment of these staff is a credit to the Derwent Valley Council and its community. I also take the opportunity to thank councillors for their support and commitment over the past twelve months.



**Stephen Mackey**  
**General Manager**

## About Us

New Norfolk was first settled by Europeans in 1807 – 1808; in 1811 Governor Macquarie ordered that a town plan be designed for ‘Elizabeth Town’ later to be named New Norfolk in recognition of the first European settlers who arrived from Norfolk Island. Many of the original town planning features are still reflected in the layout of the existing town.

Prior to European settlement the Derwent Valley was the home of the Big River people, who inhabited the region from the Derwent Valley through to the Central Highlands, including Great Lake and the Great Western Tiers. New Norfolk was the home of a band of people known as the Leenowwenna; their name for the Derwent River.

The Derwent Valley reminded many of the first settlers of their European home and they planted the deciduous trees which have become a feature of the area. These trees still attract many tourists and photographers who come to enjoy the distinct seasonal changes in the area.

Cold winters and hot summers are moderated by the more mild spring and autumn. The abundance of water (primarily from the River Derwent and other smaller rivers such as the Styx and Tyenna) make for great agricultural diversity in the area.

From traditional beef, dairy and sheep farming, through to hop growing, poppy production, elder trees, apples, wine production,

cherries and raspberries, the Derwent Valley has a diverse range of agricultural activity and investment.

Adding to the agricultural backbone of the community are the diverse industries of paper production and tourism.

Norske Skog continues to play a vital role in the Derwent Valley, not only as one of the largest employers, but also through its generous contributions to our community.

The Boyer Mill, as it is fondly known has been a fixture in the area since 1941, its upgrade last year to improved quality newsprint, book grade print and light coated paper has helped to ensure its sustainability into the future.

Mt Field National Park has experienced its highest ever visitor numbers this year with record visitors to the Park. The increased visitation provides opportunities for local tourism operators engaging with visitors and encouraging people to stay in the area.

Mt Field National Park is Tasmania’s oldest park, the park will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.

Tourism is playing an increasingly important role in the economy of the Derwent Valley, both in its traditional form and in the emerging market of agri tourism which highlights the Derwent Valley’s reputation for high quality primary produce.



the Derwent Valley in summer specifically to see hops growing, it's one of the few places where you can park of the side of the road and take in the magnificent vistas of this stunning crop.

These are a few of the many success stories of the Derwent Valley, there are many more, people who go quietly about their business, working and helping our community to prosper and grow in their own way and in their own field.

The area is home to an abundance of heritage buildings and a wealth of historical treasures, from farms and magnificent Oast Houses once used in hop production, to homes and pickers cottages. Painters and photographers come from many far flung places to take advantage of access to the many opportunities to view these treasures. There are over 5000 individual listings on the Tasmanian Heritage Register which takes in all of Tasmania, of these around 130 are listed in the Derwent Valley municipal area.

The Derwent Valley has a strong sense of community. With over 100 community and sporting groups in the area there is something for everyone to be involved in.

There are seven schools in the municipal area. These cater for all ages from kindergarten through to the end of high school, and include one non-government school. College courses will soon be offered through the High Schools.

The community is well serviced with visiting medical specialists, local GP's, child care, youth organisations, a day respite centre and a child and family centre. Many non-government organisations run

Reid Fruits, one of the largest cherry producers in Australia continues to open new export markets. The decision to concentrate on the export market ensures that smaller producers have equitable access to the domestic market and that the market is not flooded with cherries at one time.

The Westerway Raspberry Farm continues to expand supporting the Derwent Valley in its promotional activities.

The farm supplies valuable seasonal work with 100 plus seasonal workers needed to pick and pack berries in the short lead up to Christmas annually.

Fishing continues to play an important role in the Derwent Valley, from both a recreational and tourist perspective. Inland Fisheries not only manages these operations but also supports the Derwent Valley Community through its involvement in a number activities.

Affectionately known as "the Bushy Park Hop Fields", Hop Products Australia (HPA) has expanded to its largest area ever. Hops were one of the first major crops in the Derwent Valley, with commercial production starting around 1867, the Bushy Park hop fields and processing facility are the biggest and most technologically advanced in the Southern Hemisphere.

Recent years have seen an expansion in the number of varieties of hops being grown and the area being cultivated, this has been driven in part by the craft beer market, but also by the HPA's international reputation for excellence. Many tourists come to visit

programs in the Derwent Valley giving residents an opportunity to access services.

The numerous churches in the area offer a range of regular services in many denominations. There are many sporting organisations, ranging from the traditional football and cricket clubs to more relaxed pursuits such as croquet. Our rowing club is the home of several Olympic medal winners.

The community in the Derwent Valley is strong and resilient, willing to lend a helping hand and welcoming of new arrivals to the area.

## Council Structure

In 2013, the Tasmanian Government amended the Local Government Act to prevent dual representation in both the Tasmanian Parliament and Local Government, and introduce all-in, all-out Local Government elections every four years, with four-year terms for Mayors and Deputy Mayors. As a result of these changes council elections were held in October 2014.

There are eight Councillors elected to the Derwent Valley Council; their role is to act as the ultimate policy and planning body of the organisation.



**Back row left to right:** Councillor Damian Bester, Councillor Paul Belcher, Councillor Julie Triffett, Councillor Barry Lathey

**Front row left to right:** Councillor James Graham, Mayor Martyn Evans, Deputy Mayor Ben Shaw and Councillor Frank Pearce



Generally it is the role of Councillors to effectively represent and act in the best interests of their community.

The day to day operations of the Council are delegated to the General Manager who is also ultimately responsible for staff and other internal issues. Within the Council there are a number of departments, each of these deals with specific areas of Council operations.

Although each department has a specific focus, all work together for the operation of Council.

This division of duties enables Council to operate on a day to day basis, and to concentrate its efforts on the consideration of strategic issues, establishment of policy position and to represent and promote the interests of the community.

Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of the each month at the Court House, Circle Street, New Norfolk commencing at 6.30 pm, and are open to the public. From time to time Council incorporates a Community Forum into its regularly scheduled Council Meeting, these forums are held outside New Norfolk and allow members of the community to attend and raise issues of importance to their locality. Council may also hold Special Meetings; these are called to discuss matters that require immediate formal discussion by Council. All Council Meetings are advertised prior to taking place to allow attendance by the public.

Councillors hold regular workshops, these are a more informal opportunity for Councillors to discuss issues and events. Council workshops are generally held on the first, second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6.30 pm in the Courthouse, New Norfolk. The first half hour of Council workshops are open to the public.

Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend any of these meetings.

Agenda and attachments are available from Council Chambers on the Friday prior to the meeting or on Council's website: [www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au](http://www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au) . Council's website also minutes from previous Council Meetings.



**Mayor**  
Martyn Evans



**Deputy Mayor**  
Ben Shaw



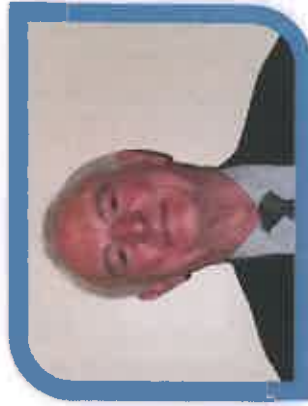
**Councillor**  
Paul Belcher



**Councillor**  
Damian Bester



**Councillor**  
James Graham



**Councillor**  
Barry Lathey

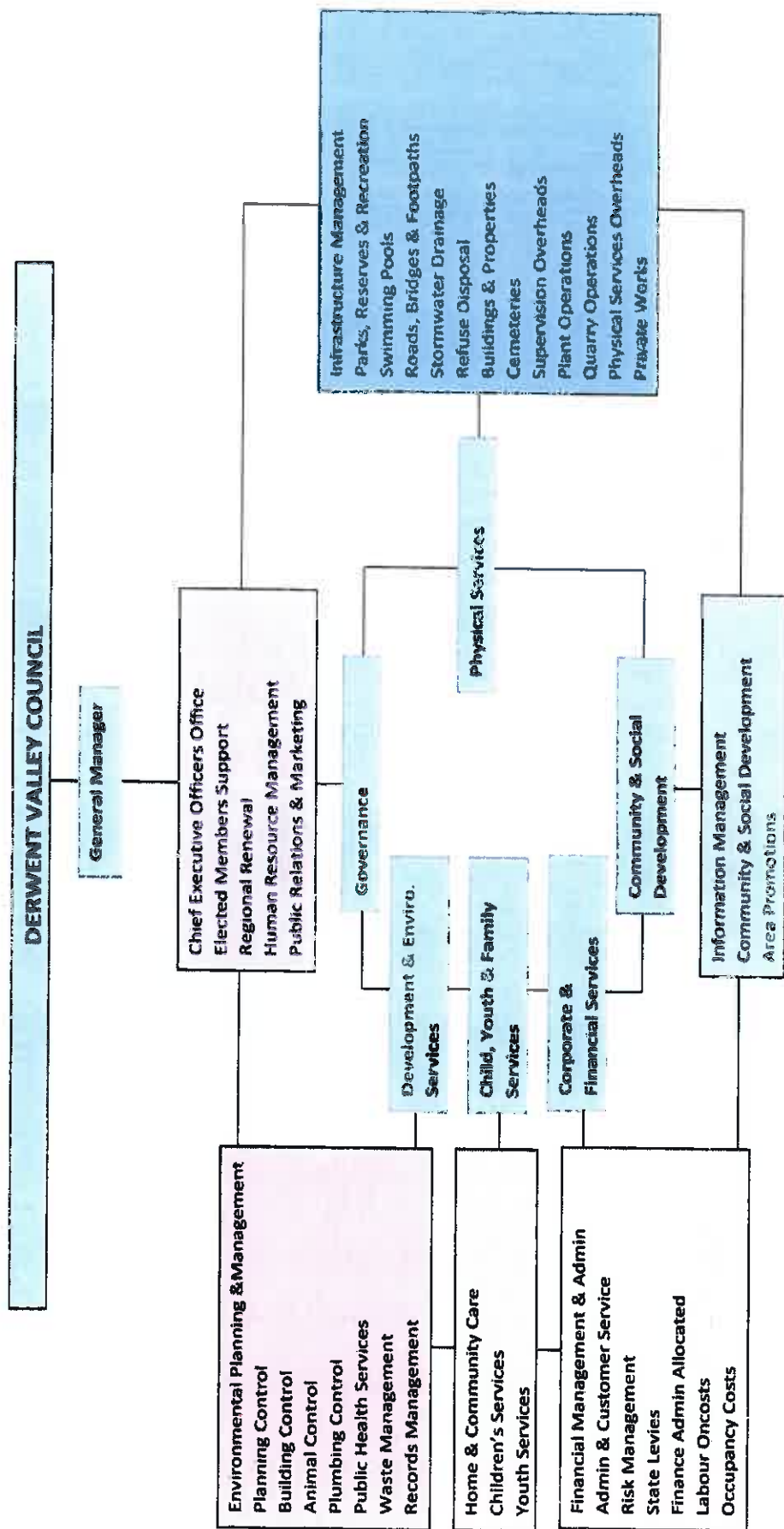


**Councillor**  
Frank Pearce



**Councillor**  
Julie Triffett

# Council Organisational Chart



## Committees of Council

The Local Government Act 1993 provides Council with the authority to create various Special Committees and other committees and to have representation on various authorities, associations and other organisations and bodies.

Committees of Council generally have a membership that includes Councillors, Council staff and members of the public with an interest in the objectives of that committee. Committees may meet regularly or on an as needed basis. Committees are reviewed regularly and new committees may be created if required.

From time to time Council may also create working groups, these are generally less formal than committees and usually meet to discuss a specific project, for example the hemp working group whose role was to make submissions to the State Government regarding possible changes in the growing of hemp in the State. Working groups usually cease to meet after their specific task has been completed.

Special Committee	Purpose	Councillor Representative
Boyer Oval Management Committee	Assists in the management and upgrading of Boyer Oval.	Cr Lathey, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Historical Information Committee	Operates the Historical Information Centre.	Cr Bester, Cr Triffett (proxy)
Gleeson Park Special Committee	Assists in the management of Gleeson Park.	Cr Graham, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team (D'FAT)	Derwent Valley Council's youth advisory committee.	Cr Triffett, Cr Bester (proxy)
Bushy Park Swimming Pool	Assists in the safe and efficient operation of the Bushy Park Swimming Pool.	Cr Bester, Cr Belcher (proxy)
Derwent Valley Sport and Recreation Committee	Assists in the safe and efficient operation of The Derwent Valley Sport and Recreation Centre.	Cr Shaw, Cr Belcher (proxy)
Molesworth Reserve Committee	Assists in the management of the Molesworth Reserve.	Cr Pearce, Cr Graham (proxy)

Special Committee	Purpose	Councillor Representative
Tidy Town Committee	Undertakes projects to help beautify and keep the municipal area tidy.	Cr Belcher, Cr Evans (proxy)
New Norfolk Swimming Pool	Assists in the safe and efficient operation of the New Norfolk Swimming Pool.	Cr Triffett, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Access Advisory Committee	Advises Council on access issues, particularly in relation to those people with a disability.	Cr Lathey, Cr Triffett (proxy)
Environmental Management Committee	Manages major environmental incidents in the Derwent Valley.	Cr Bester, Cr Evans (proxy)
New Norfolk Business Alliance	Assists in the promotion of the central business district.	Cr Pearce, Cr Graham (proxy)
Friends of Willow Court Special Committee	Has a special interest in the restoration of Willow Court	Cr Pearce, Cr Evans (proxy)
Friends of Frascati Community Garden	Aides in the restoration of the gardens at Frascati House.	Cr Bester, Cr Evans (proxy)
Tynwald Park Development Committee	Advises on the development of Tynwald Park.	Cr Triffett, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Willow Court Conservation Special Committee	Undertakes the development of and setting of strategic direction for the Council owned sections of the Willow Court precinct.	Cr Bester, Cr Evans (proxy)
Derwent Valley Council Scholarship Trust Fund	Manages the scholarship fund	Cr Evans, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Economic Development and Growth Special Committee	To aid in the implementation of the STEP's Plan	Cr Pearce, Cr Graham (proxy)
William Hazlewood Reserve (Magra)	Advises on the development of the reserve	Cr Bester, Cr Lathey (proxy)



Special Committee	Purpose	Councillor Representative
Esplanade Special Committee	Advises on the development of the Esplanade	Cr Evans, Cr Lathey, Cr Triffett, Cr Shaw
Authorities and Associations	Purpose	Councillor Representative
TasWater Authority	Water supply related issues in regards to TasWater.	Cr Evans, Cr Lathey (proxy)
Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA)	Waste issue in the south of the State.	Cr Graham, Cr Belcher (proxy)
Southern Tasmania Council Authority (STCA)	A grouping of 12 Southern Councils.	Cr Evans / Shaw (proxy)
Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)	Tasmania's peak Local Government body.	Cr Evans, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Other Committees and Organisations	Purpose	Councillor Representative
Derwent Valley Emergency Planning Committee	Puts in place plans that come into effect in case of a major emergency.	Cr Lathey, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Australia Day	Plans community activities for Australia Day each year.	Cr Lathey, Cr Evans, Cr Shaw
Derwent Catchment Natural Resource Management	Monitors environment within the Derwent Catchment area.	Cr Lathey, Cr Graham (proxy)
Derwent Valley Autumn Festival Land Sale Committee	Plans the annual Autumn Festival. Looks at the sale of Council land.	Cr Graham, Cr Belcher (proxy) Cr Bester, Cr Triffett, Cr Graham, Cr Pearce
Maydena Community Association	An association of members of the Maydena Community that has the support of Council.	Cr Bester, Cr Graham (proxy)
Derwent Valley Visitor Information Centre	Provides volunteers for the running of the Council funded Visitor Information Centre.	Cr Graham, Cr Bester (proxy)

Other Committees and Organisations	Purpose	Councillor Representative
RAFT (Real Action... Forward Thinking)	A partnership of organisations supported by Council to provide strategic leadership and information in regard to youth affairs.	Cr Shaw, Cr Graham (proxy)
Lyell Highway Committee	Established to monitor upgrades on the Lyell Highway.	Cr Bester, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Community Grants	Administers and assessed applications to Council's Community Grants program.	Cr Lathey, Cr Bester, Cr Belcher, Cr Shaw, Cr Triffett
Code of Conduct Panel	Assesses any complaints received	Cr Bester, Cr Pearce, Cr Belcher (proxy)
Derwent Valley Tourism Association	The local tourism association, an independent organisation which Council is a member of and provides support to.	Cr Shaw, Cr Belcher (proxy)

# Derwent Valley Council Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015

## Purpose of the Strategic Plan

The current Derwent Valley Council Strategic Plan relates to the 2011 – 2015 period, and is an opportunity to set clear measurable goals for Council's actions over that time. Over the period of the Strategic Plan our direction, funds and focus are governed by the objectives set in the Strategic Plan as far as possible.

The Strategic Plan is developed in consultation with the public to ensure that it reflects the goals of our community.

The plan is advertised each time it is updated, Council encourages the public to submit ideas and suggestions through this process.

The Strategic Plan focuses on a series of priorities and projects which are reflected in Council's Annual Plan. Projects and actions from the Strategic Plan are funded through the budgetary process.

Copies of the strategic plan are available on the Council website [www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au](http://www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au) or by request from Council's staff.



## An Overview of Progress

The following section contains a summary overview of progress against the Strategic Plan objectives.

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Progress	Outcomes
<p><b>IS 1: To maintain the standard of the municipality's infrastructure assets</b></p> <p>Council's works and maintenance crews continue to progress the program of works as approved by Council in the annual budget. New technologies in mapping and GPS have been incorporated into daily operations. The road hierarchy policy continues to be used to assist in decisions around competing projects</p>	<p>Ensuring the safe and reliable functioning of assets continues to be an ongoing priority for Council.</p>
<p><b>IS 2: To maintain high standards in the provision of all Council services in line with community needs, Council's policies and regulatory requirements</b></p> <p>Council continues to monitor the services it provides in line with the needs of the community and within budgetary requirements. Policies are currently being reviewed and where needed updated to reflect community needs and expectations. Council operates within all regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>To maintain its commitment to the community Council continues to update its policies and ensure regulatory requirements are met.</p>
<p><b>IS 3: To maintain community services</b></p> <p>This point relates to ensuring that the community has access to information from service providers and Council's assistance with community events.</p>	<p>Council regularly assists in passing on information from service providers and others with regard to community forums and opportunities for participation in various events. Council provides inkind assistance to the organisers of such events wherever possible, Council does not have the resources to initiate programs of this nature.</p>

**IS 4: To improve transport and access in the municipality**

<p>Council has worked in partnership with a number of stakeholders to provide better access options and improve the efficiency of Council vehicles.</p>	<p>River access for tourists has been extended. When purchasing new vehicles Council ensures that they are fit for purpose and as fuel efficient as possible.</p>
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**IS 5: To develop partnerships with relevant stakeholders on the development, management and maintenance of services in the municipality**

<p>Council continues to look for options to resource share where it advantageous to the municipal area and the community. Changes to public transport access have been implemented.</p>	<p>Council resources shares some positions with a number of other Councils and looks to incorporate this type of arrangement wherever possible and practical.</p>
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**IS 6: To develop partnerships with business in the area and particularly in High Street and its immediate surrounds with a view to reinvigorating the business district**

<p>Through the New Norfolk Business Alliance Council continues to work with business in High Street and the immediate surrounds.</p>	<p>Council continues to have a strong working relationship with a number of businesses in the area and consults with business when major changes are to be made.</p>
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**IS 7: To develop a means of relaying information from Council to the residents of the municipality**

<p>Council produces a free quarterly newsletter. There are regular comments from Council in the local newspaper. Information on public consultations etc. is advertised on Council's website.</p>	<p>The production of the newsletter is limited due to resourcing constraints. Council acknowledges that communication with residents of the municipality requires ongoing attention.</p>
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**SOCIAL OBJECTIVES**

**S 1: To make our people feel worthwhile by building greater self-reliance and self-worth in our community**

This point relates to encouraging community participation in the Local Government process, celebration of community achievements and community engagement.

Although there is always room for improvement in community engagement, Council continues to see increasing numbers of residents becoming involved in Council activities and providing feedback to Council through various means.

**S 2: To recognise the work of all people, regardless of age, gender and race in providing opportunities to be part of a vibrant community**

Council continues to support a variety of social and community events. Council's youth advisory committee and Access Advisory Committee meet regularly and are engaged in projects in the community with the support of Council.

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community Council will continue to offer support to various organisations and events wherever possible.

**S 3: To encourage the development of local sporting, cultural and artistic activities**

The maintenance and upgrade of Council recreational facilities forms part of the work undertaken by the outside workforce, and is programmed into the budget. Through inkind and financial support Council supports and promotes a number of sporting, cultural and artistic activities.

Council provides a high degree of support to as many activities as possible, often through inkind support from staff resources. Budgetary considerations sometimes limit the financial support that can be given to activities.

**ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES**

**Ec 1: To encourage and facilitate greater opportunities for business development and tourism and work toward a strategic plan for tourism and business development in the area**

<p>Council continues to engage with business owners and potential investors and has developed strong relationships with many tourism operators and tourism organisations in the municipal area. The Economic and Growth Special Committee works with stakeholders to identify opportunities and start to implement the STEPS plan.</p>	<p>Council continues to develop strong relationships in this area which enable it to reflect the views of these stakeholders to a larger audience. The implementation of the STEPS Plan has commenced.</p>
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**Ec 2: To support the retention and expansion of regional services**

<p>Council regularly lobbies other levels of government to ensure that local services remain unaffected by cuts and to promote decentralisation of government services.</p>	<p>State and Federal budget cuts threaten to undermine the work that has been undertaken in this area. Both these levels of government are at this time unwilling to consider the decentralisation of services to this area.</p>
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**Ec 3: To develop partnerships with State Government, industry and regional bodies to promote economic growth and employment development**

<p>Council has put considerable effort into opening lines of communication between Council and other bodies to promote regional growth.</p>	<p>Council's engagement with government and other organisations has been fruitful in some instances, with a growing interest in investment in the Derwent Valley.</p>
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**ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES**

**En 1: To manage and where required, protect the municipality's natural environment and resources**

Council continues to actively engage with various bodies and organisations to ensure that those resources and assets are managed that are the responsibility of Council are managed to the highest standards.

Resource sharing continues between Council and the Central Highlands Council to retain an NRM officer. At both a Councillor and Officer level Council participates with various organisations to ensure management of the natural resources of the area.

**En 2: To have a catchment management plan for the municipality**

Work continues on the catchment management plan.

A catchment management plan has been developed for the boarder Derwent Catchment, this will form the basis of the specific management plan for the municipal area. Council has finalised its tree management plan.

**En 3: To review the municipality's Planning Scheme**

The review of the Planning Scheme continues under the guidance of State Government. Public consultations have been undertaken and a number of workshops have been held for Councillors. Council's Weed Management Policy is under review.

The new Planning Scheme will soon be in operation.

**En 4: To support and encourage landcare type activities**

Council has provided practical and inkind assistance to a number of landcare activities in the past year and encourages community participation in such projects.

Council continues to support these types of projects and to actively participate in them where possible.

**En 5: To develop best practice waste management activities**

<p>Where possible office products are reused and recycled, low energy light fittings have been fitted to Council Chambers. Council continues to maintain the Peppermint Hill waste disposal site.</p>	<p>The Peppermint Hill waste disposal site now includes a Tip Shop. Council continues to look at ways of renewable power generation.</p>
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**FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES**

**F 1: To improve the affordability of Council's rating and charging structure**

<p>During the budget process the effectiveness of Council's rating system is discussed. Council continues to work on modelling, that will provide the best ratings outcomes for the community.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing concern, a balance must be found between the affordability of the rating structure and providing services reflective of the level of expectation by the community.</p>
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**F 2: To effectively manage Council's debt**

<p>Council's debt remains within acceptable guidelines.</p>	<p>Council's debt is constantly reviewed and managed to ensure that the needs of the municipality are met in the most affordable manner.</p>
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**F 3: To increase income from non-traditional sources, including greater utilisation of Council's plant and resources**

<p>Council continues to look at resource sharing opportunities and ways that Council's plant can be used.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing issue that Council is mindful of as there are limited opportunities to secure non-traditional income</p>
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**F 4: To improve community understanding of Council’s financial management and finances**

<p>Council continues to monitor the budget papers and provide monthly reporting. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Council Meetings to discuss matters of concern and to make submissions to the budget process.</p>	<p>Council’s Monthly Financial Report presented to Council was reviewed/updated during 2014/2015.</p>
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**F 5: To increase the level of grant income**

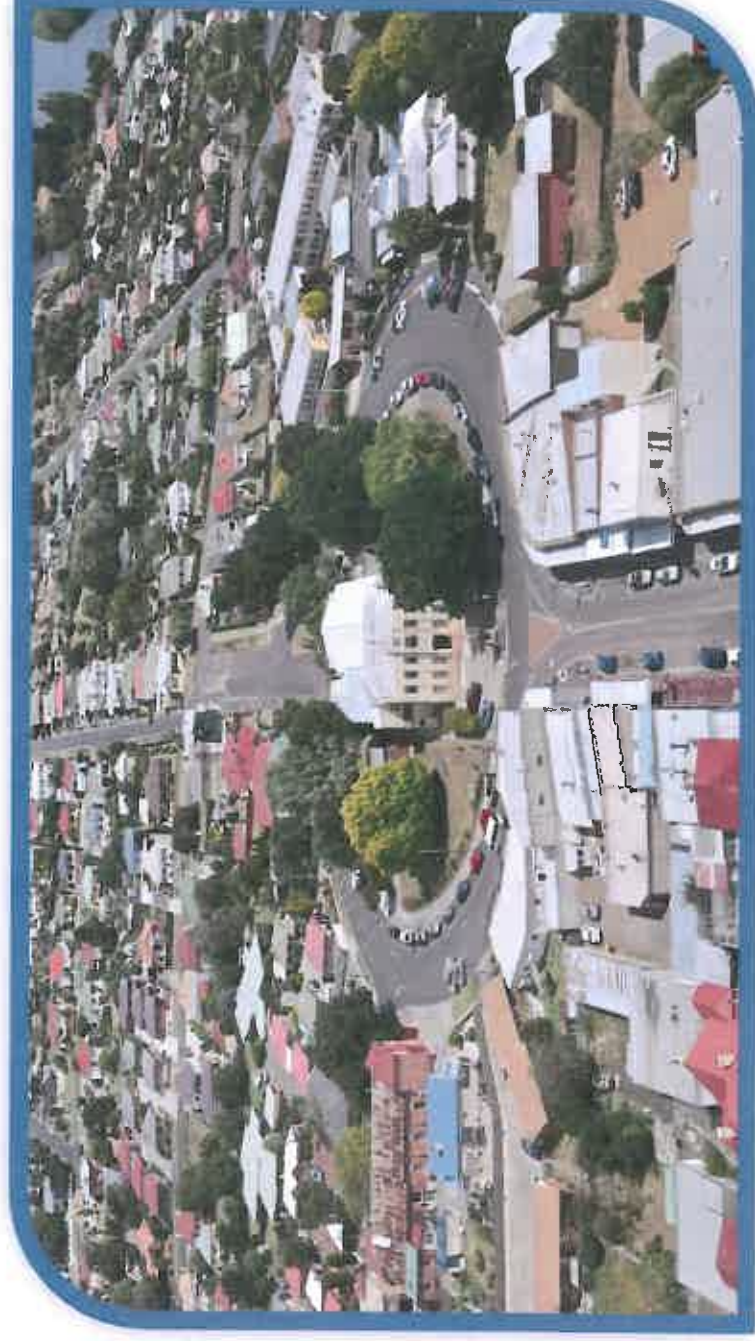
<p>Council continues to develop projects for potential grant funding, and to undertake funding applications and lobby for funding.</p>	<p>Council has received a number of grants for specific projects in the last year.</p>
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## The Year in Review

This section provides a review of the activities of Council.

All areas of Council work together to achieve outcomes for the entire community. To ensure that actual and human resources are allocated in the most effective manner, and to provide the best service possible to the community, staff allocated to a particular department may from time to time work across departments to utilise their skills and qualifications.





## Governance

The General Manager takes responsibility for the area of governance within Council. This area also includes regional renewal, public relations and marketing, human resource management and elected members support.

Acting in the human resource capacity, this office ensures that staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, the strategic direction of the organisation and their place in relation to that direction. This office also oversees the day to day operations of Council and is responsible for all decisions regarding staff matters.

Major projects and initiatives of Council, external investors and developers are scrutinised through this office before any further action is taken in regard to proposals. Working closely with Councillors and the community this office oversaw the creation of the Economic and Growth Special Committee to start the implementation of the STEPS Plan.

This office works closely with elected members to provide support to elected members and ensure that the decisions of Council are enacted. Through the Governance area, the General Manager and staff under the direction of the General Manager ensure that Councillors are provided with appropriate information, advice and support services to enable them to work collectively for the good of the community. Ongoing support is provided to individual Councillors as requested.

Councillors play an active part in setting the Derwent Valley Council budget including the consideration of public submissions to the budget. During the year Councillors attend numerous functions, seminars, forums and other meetings in the execution of their positions.

Regional renewal, public relations and marketing form part of this department and take in a large number of varied activities. The focus of these activities is to bring the community and various stakeholders together to work for positive outcomes for the municipal area. This may take many forms, from direct involvement in committees, forums and other consultative activities, through to sourcing grant funding for organisations and assisting with writing grant applications. Staff working in this area work closely with the community, the General Manager and Councillors to ensure that there is a flow of information between the various parts of the organisation. Staff involved in these activities may also liaise with a number of departments within the organisation to ensure the success of various projects.

This department has responsibility for works at Willow Court. The last year has seen further progress made in the restoration of the Barracks and Bronte buildings.

Support for community events, whether large or small helps to fulfil part of Councils corporate responsibility and builds a stronger community. Councils Physical Services Department often plays an important role in these events, including providing in-kind assistance to organisations such as Friends of Frascati, Derwent Valley Community House and ANZAC Day.

Council provides access to the decisions of Council made at Council Meetings and minutes of Special Committees via its website, and is welcoming of community input. Council encourages the public to contribute through active involvement in committees of Council and making submissions to the budget process and other public documents.

Derwent Valley Council's front counter staff and outside workforce are often the public face of Council and the first point of contact that many people have with Council. These staff are well informed and helpful and are often able to provide advice and assistance on a range of matters. Frontline staff assist as much as is possible with enquiries and will willingly direct the public to the appropriate officers for further information.

## Physical Services

This department works on all areas of Council's infrastructure and assets and comprises of Council's outside workforce.

Specific responsibilities that fall within this department include:

- Parks, reserves and recreational facilities
- Council owned roads, bridges and footpaths
- Stormwater drainage
- Council's swimming pools
- Infrastructure management
- Refuse disposal
- Building and property maintenance
- Cemeteries

Much of the work undertaken by this department is pre-scheduled and planned up to a year in advance to align with Council's budgetary cycle. Some major works are staged or scheduled over a number of years to ensure that the required funds will be available for completion of the works.

The work of Council's outside workforce is varied, from ensuring that Council's gardens and parks are well kempt through to footpath maintenance and replacement, kerb and gutter upgrades, road patching, the upkeep of swimming pools and clean ups after events such as floods and high winds.

The work of Council's outdoor workforce often goes unnoticed, however it is essential to the safety and amenity of our community. The outdoor workforce is often out in inclement weather and during high winds, floods and fires can be seen attending to emergency situations to ensure the safety of our community.



## Community and Social Development

The community and social development functions of Council work closely with the governance area in seeking opportunities to engage with stakeholders and build a strong and cohesive community.

As part of the commitment to the community; Councillors and staff are encouraged to play an active role in local committees, clubs and organisations. This helps to integrate Council into the broader community and develop networks.

This wide ranging area of engagement was identified as an area of focus in the current strategic plan, Council therefore places a great deal of importance on participation in this area. Council builds relationships across the community through a number of initiatives involving partnerships between community stakeholders and Council. These include:

- Australia Day activities
- Support for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services
- CWA Learn to Swim Campaign
- Carols by Candlelight
- Christmas Parade through the New Norfolk Business Alliance (a Special Committee of Council)

- RAFT (Real Action...Forward Thinking)
- Derwent Valley Scholarship Fund
- Numerous small donations to individuals and organisations during the year.

The Derwent Valley has much to be proud of, from our agricultural success stories, through to the many community and other events that Council and the community is involved in each year including the Autumn Festival, Big River Growers Market, Caterpillar Tour of Tasmania and the planned Relay for Life. Through its area promotions function, Council aims to assist in as many of the events that take place in the Derwent Valley as is possible, these help to build on the reputation of the valley and strengthen the community.

This aspect of promotional activity also includes Council's support of the tourism sector through an active involvement in the local tourism association, and support of Destination Southern Tasmania, the regional tourism association. Council continues to fund the Visitor Information Centre.

## Development and Environmental Services

Much of the work undertaken by this department is governed by the legislative requirements of Council; this is detailed in Section 5 of this report. This department is divided into a number of discreet areas, with information on each contained below.

### Environmental Planning and Management

Environmental planning and management, involves the protection of natural environment, including catchment and environmental monitoring. This includes Council's contribution to NRM South. The Derwent Valley and Central Highlands Councils share an NRM officer who specialises in this work.

Also included in this area is the licensing of food businesses and food inspections, on-site wastewater systems, immunisation sessions, recreational water quality monitoring and a number of other public health related activities. The results of these activities are recorded in section 5 of this report.

Physical Services shares responsibility for waste management with this area, this includes support for programs to promote waste minimization and recycling. Participation in sustainability programs such as the Great Garage Sale Trail are shared between this department and Community and Social Development.

### Building and Plumbing Control

Building and plumbing control form part of the team to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements in relation to new, existing and unapproved structures.

A Building surveying service is provided for Class 1 & 10 buildings (dwellings and outbuildings). This includes checking plans, applications, inspection of works under construction and completed works for compliance with the related codes, acts and regulations. On completion of privately certified projects, inspections are also carried out to ensure all planning conditions have been met.

Compliance action is also involved for works undertaken without the required permits.

This area is highly regulated and must meet the expectations of the Department of Justice (Building Standards and Occupational Licensing) who provide guidance/training and undertake regular audits.

Council's Building Surveyor (L) and Compliance Officer is employed on a full time basis and the Plumbing Inspector being resource shared with Southern Midlands Council.

A total of 109 building applications during 2014/2015 were received and a total of 88 building approvals were granted for projects in the same period, with a total value of \$11.5 million.

## Planning Control

Planning control provides strategic and statutory planning in accordance with the requirements of various pieces of State legislation.

Council receives and determines applications for development or land use in accordance with the *New Norfolk Planning Scheme 1994* and the *Land Use and Planning Approvals Act 1993*.

Of the 158 permit applications submitted to Council, 137 were approved. There were 2 applications refused and applicants withdrew a total of 5 applications. At 30 June 2015 there were 33 applications pending a decision.

There were 2 applications assessed with no permit required.

There were 17 subdivision applications submitted of which 14 were approved. There were 9 applications pending at 30 June 2015.

During the year there were no planning appeals lodged against Council's determination.

## Animal Control

Council undertakes a number of animal management programs which include animal nuisance complaints, straying stock on roads, dogs at large and dog attacks. Council employs a fulltime Municipal Inspector with the position also responsible for undertaking fire hazard inspections during the fire season. The Municipal Inspector undertakes patrols around the municipality, responds to animal complaints and promotes responsible ownership to the wider community.

Council has statutory and legislative requirements under the *Dog Control Act 2000* to ensure that all dogs are registered and managed in a responsible manner. A part of the management of dogs is to include restricted, prohibited and dog exercise areas across the Derwent Valley to ensure a safe environment for the dogs and the public.

As a result of Council's ongoing Animal Control Program:

- 2037 dogs are registered with council
- 71 dogs were impounded, a reduction from 87 for the previous year
- 40 of the impounded dogs were reclaimed by the owner; and
- 31 dogs were unclaimed and transferred to the Tasmanian Dogs Home for adoption, a reduction from 41 the previous year.



## Records Management

Records management ensures that the internal filing, retrieving and disposal of hard copies of Council documents, maps and records are completed in a timely and efficient manner. Council recently undertook a routine records management audit carried out by the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO). Council is currently awaiting the results of this audit and anticipate they will be available in early 2016.

Records management staff are regularly updated by the TAHO on the current requirements and guidelines for records management, this includes briefings from the TAHO to ensure Council is adhering to the appropriate legislation.

## Environmental Planning and Management

Environmental planning and management, involves the protection of natural environment, including catchment and environmental monitoring. Since the appointment of a new officer a large amount of planning for future activities has been undertaken.



## Corporate and Financial Services

Corporate and financial services has primary responsibility for financial management and administration, customer service and risk management.

Through the budget process, in conjunction with decisions of Council, this department controls the budget, sets rates and undertakes the financial administration of Council.

To ensure sound financial management and in line with the goals set in the Strategic Plan, Financial Management Strategy and Long Term Financial Plan, the annual budget and the Annual Plan, Council endeavors to provide the community with clear and easy to understand information on the budget, rating structure and services. Additionally, monthly financial reports are presented at Council meetings and are available to the public as part of the Council Agenda.

This section is charged with the duty of ensuring that there are adequate financial resources available to deliver services and that these resources are managed efficiently and effectively.

Each year, Council calls for public submissions to the Budget, this occurred between 12<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. This provided the public with an opportunity to seek funding for projects and improvements which may not have come to the attention of Council. All submissions were considered by Councillors as part of the budgetary process.

Council's Budget was adopted by Council at a Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

The Annual Plan was adopted on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014, and set out the immediate goals for the coming year .

Our customer service staff are well trained and courteous and will assist members of the public whenever possible with any enquiries.

The role of customer service staff has broadened in recent years, from a simple point of contact to assisting with more detailed enquiries and various administration duties that keep Council functioning efficiently. Customer service staff are also able to help the public direct their enquiries to other government agencies such as TasWater etc., where appropriate.

One of Council's main concerns is ensuring that the residents and visitors are not exposed to undue risk of injury. Council manages its exposure to risk in a proactive manner, addressing areas of potential public risk in a timely fashion. Part of this role is to work to ensure that costs associated with any liability claims are kept to a minimum, this is achieved through the extensive use of risk management practices.



## Child, Youth and Family Services

There are three areas covered by this program:

- Home and Community Care (HACC);
- Children's Services, including Long Day Care, After School Care, Vacation Care and Family Day Care, and;
- Youth Services

Through these programs Council provides support to many vulnerable members of the community. These programs form the centre of Council's community services program.

### Home and Community Care (HACC)

HACC is situated at Glengrey House and is an adult day respite centre, providing services to frail, aged and people with disabilities and their carers living in the Derwent Valley area.

This past year has seen a lot of gradual changes within the centre with modernisation while keeping the homely, safe and friendly atmosphere it has always had. We have purchased new comfortable and adjustable arm chairs for the comfort and ease of our clients as well as new outdoor settings which promote a healthy lifestyle with fresh air and relaxed conversation. A new upright freezer has also been purchased for easy access for staff.

Glengrey House provides a relaxed, homely and social environment for clients who are otherwise at risk of social isolation by reinforcing social contact outside the home.

Clients of Glengrey House achieve a sense of belonging to the community as their skills are recognized and they are given the opportunity to learn new skills. Clients can take advantage of a large variety of activities offered in the day program including guest speakers from Advocacy Tasmania, Tas Fire Service, Corumbene and Lisa Curry who was an extra special guest. This year's activities also included a trip to Derwent Bridge to see the very popular Wall in the Wilderness.

Staff and volunteers at Glengrey House undertook training in First Aid, mental health and food safety this year, expanding their knowledge and learning new skills to ensure that Glengrey House maintains its reputation for offering a client and carer focused respite centre. Glengrey House passed two essential audits this year, ensuring that the highest possible standard of care is offered.

Carers benefit from the respite services offered at Glengrey House, as it gives them an opportunity to recharge their batteries, or undertake chores safe in the knowledge that their loved one is in good care for the day.

The majority of Glengrey House's funding comes through the Australian Government and is administered by Council.

## Children's Services

Valley Children's Services offers a range of child care and early learning services to the residents of the Derwent Valley.

The centre offers Long Day Care for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years, Before and After School Care for children from 5 – 12 years with a collection service from four schools in the area for After School Care. Vacation Care is offered along with Family Day care, with registered Family Day Care Educators in their own home. Services have expanded this year to see a Family Day Care service running in Ouse five days a week.

The Valley Children's Services is fully licensed and accredited and all staff meet the required standards of qualification. All rooms at the Valley Children's Centre are near capacity, with the centre operating at capacity three days per week.

## Youth Services

Council's youth services are based at Carinya Education Park, adjacent to New Norfolk High School. This complex houses a number of services, including external non-government organisations who are primarily involved in service delivery for young people and the broader community. Carinya Education Park continues to be utilised by a number of skills and training providers who offer accredited and non-accredited short courses to assist youth and long term unemployed to prepare for or gain for employment. Council supports these activities through providing a low cost area for the delivery of such courses.

Council's Youth Services provides various opportunities for youth in the area to fully develop their potential. Council actively works with and supports a number of groups representing young people (12-25 years of age). These services include:

- Derwent Valley RAFT (Real Action.....Forward Thinking). RAFT is an over-arching supporting body to assist with coordinated delivery of youth programs in the Derwent Valley. RAFT convenes networking opportunities and information sharing for youth service providers and stakeholders through the operation of regular RAFT Forum meetings. RAFT currently has affiliations with 16 service providers and has assisted with the development of projects such as Tree2Sea, Community of Wellness, 26TEN and the Derwent Valley Learning Precinct. Derwent Valley Learning Precinct is a collective of Derwent Valley public education

facilities working together to raise the value of education. The slogan of the Derwent Valley Learning Precinct is 'Valley of Learning'.

- Tree2Sea. Tree2Sea is an educational kayak and boat building program based at Council's Carinya Education Park. Tree2Sea is a collaborative project between Council, Derwent Valley Community House, New Norfolk High School (supported by the Derwent Valley Learning Precinct – 'Valley of Learning'), Workskills Employment, Derwent Valley RAFT and Primary Health Tasmania. Tree2Sea is supported by Primary Health Tasmania under the Primary Health Networks Program – an Australian Government initiative.

- Community of Wellness. Community of Wellness is a network of volunteer mentors, trained to support the wellbeing of their peers. These volunteer mentors are highly supported and will be the links between their peers and support services. Community of Wellness is a collaborative project of Derwent Valley RAFT and is supported by the Australian Government through Partners in Recovery (PIR).

- 26TEN. 26TEN is an initiative of the Tasmanian Government with the aim of improving literacy and numeracy levels. With the support of Council, Derwent Valley RAFT in-partnership with the Derwent Valley Learning Precinct has received funding is to engage an officer to increase the Derwent Valley community's understanding and awareness of literacy issues, and develop a long term strategic plan to address such issues.

The New Norfolk Inter-agency Support Team (NNIAST). Inter Agency Support teams are an initiative of Tasmanian Police with the aim to case-manage young people (5-17 years) and their families with multiple and complex problems.

Father Chris Riley Youth Off The Streets school holiday programs. Council continues to assist with promotion and publicity, and the provision of transport and supervision for Derwent Valley participants in these programs.

D'FAT (Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team) is a Special Committee of Council and acts as the youth advisory group to Council. The major aim of D'FAT is to assist Council in developing activities and projects for young people and advise Council on youth issues and concerns.



## Regional Development

Regional development also fits within the broad area managed by the General Manager and includes a wide range of activities; from grass roots involvement in community organisations and committees of Council, through to higher level and strategic discussions. The aim of regional development is to work with a range of stakeholders to build and strengthen the community, whether through support of 'one off' activities, through ongoing programs and planning, by assisting committees and groups in the community to achieve their goals or through targeted work with Special Committees of Council.

Regional development works across a wide range of departments and with many staff on various projects to support Council.

This year a number of specific projects have been undertaken, along with day to day and ongoing activities. One of the major drivers going into the coming year will be the implementation of the STEPs To The Future Plan. Commissioned by Council, the STEPs Plan offers a long term vision to help drive economic growth in the Derwent Valley. The plan which was developed in consultation with the community has identified agriculture, tourism, business and population growth as economic drivers for the area, and indicates a number of actions that can be undertaken to help develop these growth areas. In order to implement the STEPs Plan, Council has created the Economic and Growth Special Committee, made up of representatives from the agriculture, tourism and business sectors, and with a wide ranging group of 'friends' who are

welcome to attend meetings and provide input into the activities of the committee. Although early days for the committee, a number of activities have been identified for investigation and future action, these include a branding strategy for the Derwent Valley, an audit of tourism and other assets in the area and working with a number of groups and individuals in the community to develop projects that will help to promote the Derwent Valley.

In the last financial year, Council has made a number of submissions to various government inquiries, these included:

- Tasmanian Government provision of Public Wi Fi in selected places;
- A submission in support of the establishment of a commercial industrial hemp industry in Tasmania, and a further submission regarding changes to legislation that would allow hemp to be grown in the State for industrial purposes;
- Comment on a review of the Education Act;
- A submission regarding the development of infrastructure in National Parks as part of the Parks 21 consultation process; and,
- A submission into the review of Heritage Tourism in Tasmania.

This year Council received a contribution from Tasmanian Government's Centenary of ANZAC Grant Programme to develop



the Centenary of ANZAC Rose Garden and Millbrook Rise interpretive panel outside Council Chambers. This was officially 'opened' on Remembrance Day, and was developed in conjunction with the Historical Information Centre and the New Norfolk RSL Sub-Branch. The project recognises the sacrifices of those who have served in conflicts and peace keeping activities and provides a focal point during commemorations. This builds upon the existing cenotaph and memorial to the Boer War, and compliments Council's commitment each year to provide assistance to the New Norfolk RSL Sub-Branch in organising the ANZAC Day services and Remembrance Day commemorations.

The Willow Court precinct continues to be of great importance to our community, at the time of writing, Council was waiting on the results of an application to the National Stronger Regions Round 2 Grant fund, if successful in this application funding will be used for the restoration of Frascati House. Works on initial stages of the Willow Court redevelopment were completed this year, in 2014 a preview of the partly completed site gained a great deal of interest, as did a visit from Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to see the site as it stands now. Council has partnered with the Heritage Centre at Oatlands in their 5x5x5 project, this will see restorative works done on the Willow Court wall and will provide training for a number of young people and others in heritage restoration practices. Work has also been undertaken this year to support an application by Assistant Professor Heather Burke to undertake further archaeological research at the Willow Court precinct in the coming years.



Other general activities that fall within the regional development area include:

- The successful submission of a Green Army application which led to regeneration and revegetation of the Lachlan Rivulet in Tynwald Park, work on the walk between Tynwald Park and the Millbrook Rise boat ramp and the clearing and revegetation of the boat ramp area;
- The completion of the Plenty Valley Link Road Feasibility Study, this was funded through a grant application submitted to the Australian Government by Council;



- Liaising with Friends of Frascati on a number of projects and initiatives being undertaken by them in their ongoing works at Frascati house, including discussions regarding the extension of the community garden run by the Derwent Valley Community House and situated on Council land that forms part of the Frascati parcel of land;
- Providing advice and assistance to numerous community groups and individuals to make grant applications for business and community purposes;
- A review of the business levy that helps to fund the New Norfolk Business Alliance, a Special Committee of Council;
- Working with Dragon Boats in Tasmania to provide sponsorship and prepare for the 4 Bridges Dragon Boat Paddling Marathon that will start from New Norfolk in 2016;
- Liaising with various community and government organisations who have an interest in the Derwent Valley, including Parks and Wildlife Service, SASS, Destination Southern Tasmania, Department of State Growth and Fruit Growers Tasmania; and,
- Securing filming space for The Kettering Incident at various locations around the Derwent Valley.

## Enterprise Powers Statement

This report is made pursuant to Section 72 of the Local Government Act 1993.

No activities were undertaken during the 2014/2015 financial year.

## Senior Employee Total Remuneration Statement

*This statement is in accordance with Section 72 (1)(cd) of the Local Government Act 1993.*

Remuneration is as follows:

\$160,000 - \$179,999 – 1 employee

\$80,000 - \$99,999 – 1 employee

## Councillor Allowances and Expenses Statement

Statement of Allowances and expenses paid to elected members Section 72 (1)(cb) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Total allowances paid to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors: \$116,314.

Total expenses paid to all Councillors: \$5,215.

Allowances, telephone and travel paid to elected members for 2014 – 2015 were as follows:

Elected Member	Allowance \$	Telephone \$	Travel \$
Councillor Belcher	7,702		
Councillor Bester*	11,466		
Mayor Evans*	40,133	2,215	3,000
Councillor Graham*	11,466		
Councillor Lathey*	15,069		
Councillor Pearce	7,702		
Deputy Mayor Shaw	15,074		
Councillor Triffett	7,702		

\*Allowances/expenses for period 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015, all others effective from 1 November 2014.

## Grants Assistance and Benefits

*This statement is in accordance with Section 77(1) of the Local Government Act 1993.*

Council allocated the following grants under it's 2014-2015 Community Grants Program, all amounts are GST exclusive:

- New Norfolk Scout Group: tent purchase - \$500
- Golden Years Club New Norfolk: bus trip - \$200
- Maydena Community Association Inc.: crafting materials - \$500
- Derwent Valley Men's Shed: bird aviary - \$500
- Derwent Valley Choir: music scores - \$250
- Friends of Willow Court & DV Players: kitchenware - \$500
- Derwent Valley Online Access Centre: storage cupboard - \$500
- Derwent Valley Players: costumes - \$500
- Historical Information Centre: display boards - \$500
- Westerway Hall: fridge - \$500
- Tasmanian Trail Inc.: signage - \$1,500
- Derwent Valley Garden Club: bus trip - \$400
- New Norfolk Scouts Group: Jamboree - \$1,000
- Friends of Willow Court: signage - \$250
- Derwent Valley Men's Shed: power supply - \$500
- St Matthews Singers: music scores - \$300
- Derwent Valley Community House: fridge - \$250

Derwent Valley Council made the following donations to individuals and organisations in the 2014-2015 financial year:

- Upper Derwent Anglers Club - \$100
- Ryan Banks-smith: AFL Tas rep - \$200
- Tyler Carr: AFL Tas rep - \$200
- Jack Stevenson: cricket TAS rep. - \$200
- Mary Coy: soccer Tas rep - \$200
- Tyrone Bailey: AFL Tas Rep - \$200
- Nathaniel Graham: Aust. rowing championship - \$100
- New Norfolk Fire Brigade: Fire fighters Champions - \$100
- Lions Club of Hobart: show pass - \$100
- Leukaemia Foundation - \$100
- Jordan Hayden: AFL Tas rep - \$200
- Bushy Park Show Society: annual show - \$100
- Tas. Fire Service: Christmas gifts - \$100
- Evie Anning: art prize - \$100
- Molesworth Community Hall: carols - \$100
- Fairview Primary School: fair - \$100
- New Norfolk Primary School: playgroup - \$100
- Fairview Primary School: assembly prize - \$50
- Glenora High School: car show - \$100
- Magra Fire Brigade: quiz night - \$100
- Maydena Community Assoc.: festival - \$100
- New Norfolk High School: assembly prize - \$100
- New Norfolk Soccer Club: travelling costs - \$200
- Glenora High School – assembly prize - \$50

A total of \$11,650 was granted / donated during the year.

## Contracts for Supply of Goods and Services

This statement is made in accordance with Section 23(5) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

The following contracts to the value of \$100,000 or above were entered into during the 2014-2015 financial year.

Contract	Contract Period	Extension Option	Contract Sum (inc. extension options)	Contractor
Kerbside Recycling	5 years Commenced 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	1 year + 1 year	\$600,000 (estimated)	Aussie Waste
Waste Collection	5 years Commenced 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2011	1 year + 1 year	\$800,000 (estimated)	Veolia
Glen Dhu Rivulet Bridge	2014-2015	N/A	\$113,000	BridgePro Engineering
Derwent Terrace	2014-2015	N/A	\$266,165	Spectran Pty Ltd

## Donated Land Statement

Derwent Valley Council has not resolved to donate any lands in accordance with Section 177 of the Local Government Act 1993.

## Public Interest Disclosure Statement

Derwent Valley Council has not raised, or determined, any disclosures during the 2014-2015 financial year in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012.

## Legislative Requirements

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that certain information on the operations of Council is included in this report. That information can be found in this section.

### Public Health Statement

From 1 July 2014 until 30 June 2015, the Council's Environmental Health Department employed an Environmental Health Officer for four (4) days a week. Council fulfilled all its obligations under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*; *Food Act 2003*; *Public Health Act 1997* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

One of the roles of the Environmental Health Department and an objective of Council is to protect public health and safety and to ensure food prepared and sold within the municipal area is safe for human consumption and complies with relevant legislation, in particular the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code. This objective is achieved through educational programs and regular food inspections of food premises. There were 104 food premises and 65 temporary food premises registered in the municipal area during 2014 – 2015 financial year.

Approximately, 104 food inspections and 25 temporary food inspections were conducted. Council's Environmental Health Officer attended and regulated large public events including the Autumn Festival; Bushy Park Show; Hobart Speedway and Granton Boats Racing.

Council has an obligation to provide food education/ awareness training to members of the community, who work with food in various capacities. The goal of food education/awareness training is to ensure persons undertaking or supervising food handling operations have the appropriate skills and knowledge in food safety and food hygiene matters, so as to protect public health and safety. The Environmental Health Department conducted 3 food training courses during the financial year, 61 participants attended in total. Food training certificates were presented to all participants who completed the training.

In accordance with the *Building Act 2000*, the Environmental Health Department is also responsible for assessing on-site wastewater systems and to issue special plumbing permits for the installation of any new on-site wastewater systems. A total of 30 special plumbing permits were issued during the financial year.

Under the *Public Health Act 1997 – Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007*, Council has a responsibility to monitor its recreational and public pools. The recreational water sampling site was the Derwent River, near Fitzgerald Jetty. Monitoring of recreational waters was conducted by the Derwent Valley Council, principally on a weekly basis, through the months of December 2014 to March 2015. Samples were analysed for the microbiological



indicator of *Enterococci* bacteria. A total of 17 recreational samples were taken. There are four public pools in the Derwent Valley municipality. They are:

- New Norfolk Main Swimming Pool and New Norfolk Baby Swimming Pool, situated at the Esplanade, New Norfolk;
- Bushy Park Swimming Pool, situated at 601 Gordon River Road, Glenora; and
- Maydena Swimming Pool, situated at Mayne Street, Maydena.

Pool samples were analysed for Heterotrophic Plate Count 36°cfu/mL; E. Coli cfu/100mL and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* cfu/100mL. A total of 68 pool samples were taken. The results of the recreational and pool samples are included in a report required by the Director of Public Health.

In accordance with the Drinking Water Quality Guidelines under the *Public Health Act 1997*, Council is required to keep a register of private water suppliers and water carriers in the municipal area. There are currently 6 private water suppliers and 1 water carrier operating in the municipal area. The details of the private water suppliers and water carrier are compiled in a report as required by the Director of Public Health.

The following table summarises the activities undertaken during the 2014/2015 financial year

Type of Premises	No. Premises 2013-2014	No. Inspections 2013-2014	No. Premises 2014-2015	No. Inspections 2014-2015	Comments
Places of Assembly	18	12	21	21	
Places of Assembly for Specific Events	8	8	22	12	
Immunisations	N/A	434	N/A	286	Doses administered.
Pool Water Samples	4	62	4	68	
Recreational Water Samples	1	17	1	17	
Regulated Systems	0	0	0	0	
Commercial Water Carters	2	2	1	1	
Public Health Risks	1	1	1	1	
Unhealthy Housing	0	0	0	0	
Notifiable Disease Investigations	3	3	4	4	
Private Burial Permits	0	0	0	0	

## Food Act 2003 and Building Act 2000

Type of Premises	No. Premises 2013 - 2014	No. Inspections 2013 - 2014	No. Premises 2014 - 2015	No. Inspections 2014 - 2015	Comments
Registered food businesses	115	98	104	104	
Growers Market Registrations	3	3	3	3	
Temporary Food premises	63	31	65	25	
Food Vehicles	2	2	3	3	
Seizure of food items	0	0	0	0	
Approval of plans for new or alterations to existing food premises	3	4	2	2	

## Environmental Management and Pollution Control act 1994 and Local Government Act 1993

Description	No. 2013-2014	No. 2014 - 2015
Complaints Received	144	93
Environmental Protection Notices served or ongoing	0	0
Abatement notices served under <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	49	
Infringement notices served under <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>	0	0

## Building Act 2000

Description	No. 2013-2014	No. 2014 - 2015
Special Plumbing Permits Issued	44	30
Special Plumbing Completions	5	8
Development Applications	132	139
Subdivision Referrals	0	0
Plumbing Notices Served	14	0
Plumbing Orders Served	21	0

## Councillor Meeting Attendance

This report is made pursuant to Section 72 of the Local Government Act 1993

There were a total of 33 Council Meetings, consisting of:

Ordinary Council Meetings	12
Closed Meetings	11
Special Ordinary Meetings	4
Special Closed Meetings	5
Annual General Meeting	1

Included in this total are two meetings held away from New Norfolk (Bushy Park and Lachlan) these meetings included a community forum.

Where a Councillor was not in attendance at a particular meeting, a leave of absence for a specific purpose may have been granted by Council pursuant to Section 39 of the Local Government (Meeting and Procedures Regulations 2005).

Councillor	Ordinary Meeting	Closed Meeting	Special Ordinary	Special Closed	AGM	Total Attended
Councillor Belcher	8	8	2	4	1	23
Councillor Bester	12	11	4	5	1	33
Councillor Bromfield	4	3	2	1		10
Councillor Evans	11	10	4	5	1	31
Councillor Graham	12	11	4	5	1	33
Councillor Lathey	12	11	4	5	1	33
Councillor Lester	4	3	2	1		10
Councillor Nicholson	4	3	2	1		10
Councillor Pearce	8	7	1	4	1	21
Councillor Shaw (Ben)	8	8	2	4	1	23
Councillor Shaw (Scott)	4	3	2	0		9
Councillor Shoobridge	4	3	1	1		9
Councillor Triffett	8	8	2	4	1	23



## Acknowledgements and Contact Details

The Derwent Valley Council would like to thank all who contributed to this report.

The Derwent Valley Council welcomes feedback regarding this report, written comment should be addressed to the Derwent Valley Council, General Manager, PO Box 595, New Norfolk, Tas 7140.

Further copies of this report can be obtained from the following:

**Website:** [www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au](http://www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au)

**Telephone:** (03) 6261 8500

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### Photographic Credits and captions

Front Cover – (aerial photo of the Derwent Valley Municipality)

Page 32 (Council Chambers, Circle Street, New Norfolk)

Page 35 (Council workers at the New Norfolk Football grounds)

Page 39 (Hop fields at Bushy Park )

Page 44 (New Norfolk High School students working on a sea kayak as a part of the Tree2Sea program )

Page 46 (Barracks, Willow Court, New Norfolk)

**All photographs are from private collections or Derwent Valley Council file photographs**