



Clarence... a brighter place

# City of Clarence News

## Winter 2021



### SECOND STAGE OF CONSULTATION OPEN

The revised Draft Dog Management Policy is open for consultation... read more page 5

### CLARENCE PRIZE RETURNS

Clarence Prize returns, offering world-class design... read more page 6



# EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH OF CITY DRIVING INCREASED SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

By Mayor Doug Chipman

The City of Clarence is experiencing unprecedented growth with building approvals, development, use of amenities and population growth all driving increased service requirements and investment need across our region.

At the same time, it has been a really tough year, with many in our community still feeling the social, financial, mental and physical effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and everything it has thrown at us.

It is in this environment that we must take stock, assess the needs of the community and ensure that we set a budget for the coming financial year that balances where we are today and what we must do

for the future prosperity of our community.

As foreshadowed in last year's budget communication, council was faced with a challenging budget environment for the coming financial year. Programs, activities and services were highly scrutinised and opportunities for any savings were factored into the budget to ease pressure on ratepayers.

After months of detailed work we believe we have set a budget that meets this challenging economic period head on.

The financial year 2021-22 budget sets a general rate increase on average of 3.77 percent, off the back of a 0.00 percent increase last financial

year, which provided relief to all in our community.

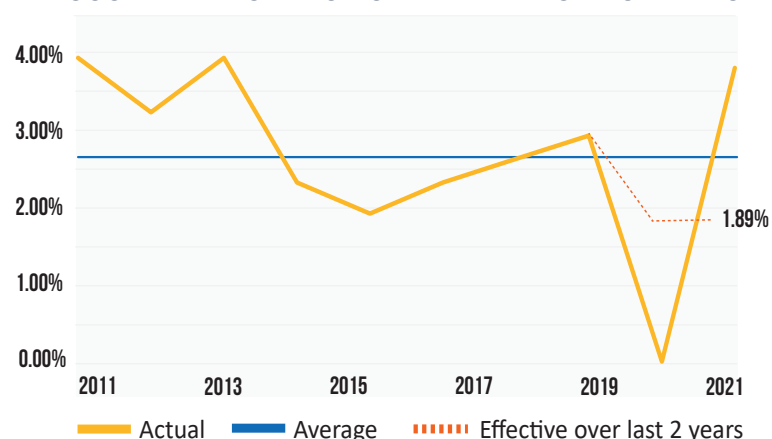
In this context we are actually talking about a relative rate increase over the last two years of 1.89 percent per year.

The budget includes the

funding of a \$21.4 million capital program to be undertaken by council, the second largest ever, following a \$22.7 million works program last year.

cont. page 2

### CCC RATE INCREASE OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS



## EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH OF CITY DRIVING INCREASED SERVICE REQUIREMENTS CONT.

The \$21.4 million capital program includes:

- Stormwater upgrades - \$6.97 million
- Road reseal programme - \$2.7 million
- Major digouts reconstruction - \$2.4 million
- Footpath/ kerb and gutter renewal - \$2.1 million
- Alma Street – \$1.4 million
- Clarence Mountain Bike Park track refurbishment - \$85,000
- Clarendon Vale Oval new changerooms - \$450,000
- Sandford Hall upgrades - \$140,000

Government stimulus programs have been successful in ensuring the economy has remained strong during the initial and ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this has driven increased activity for us at a local government level.

Development application growth in our city for the year to March 2021 outstripped all the other local government areas in greater Hobart.

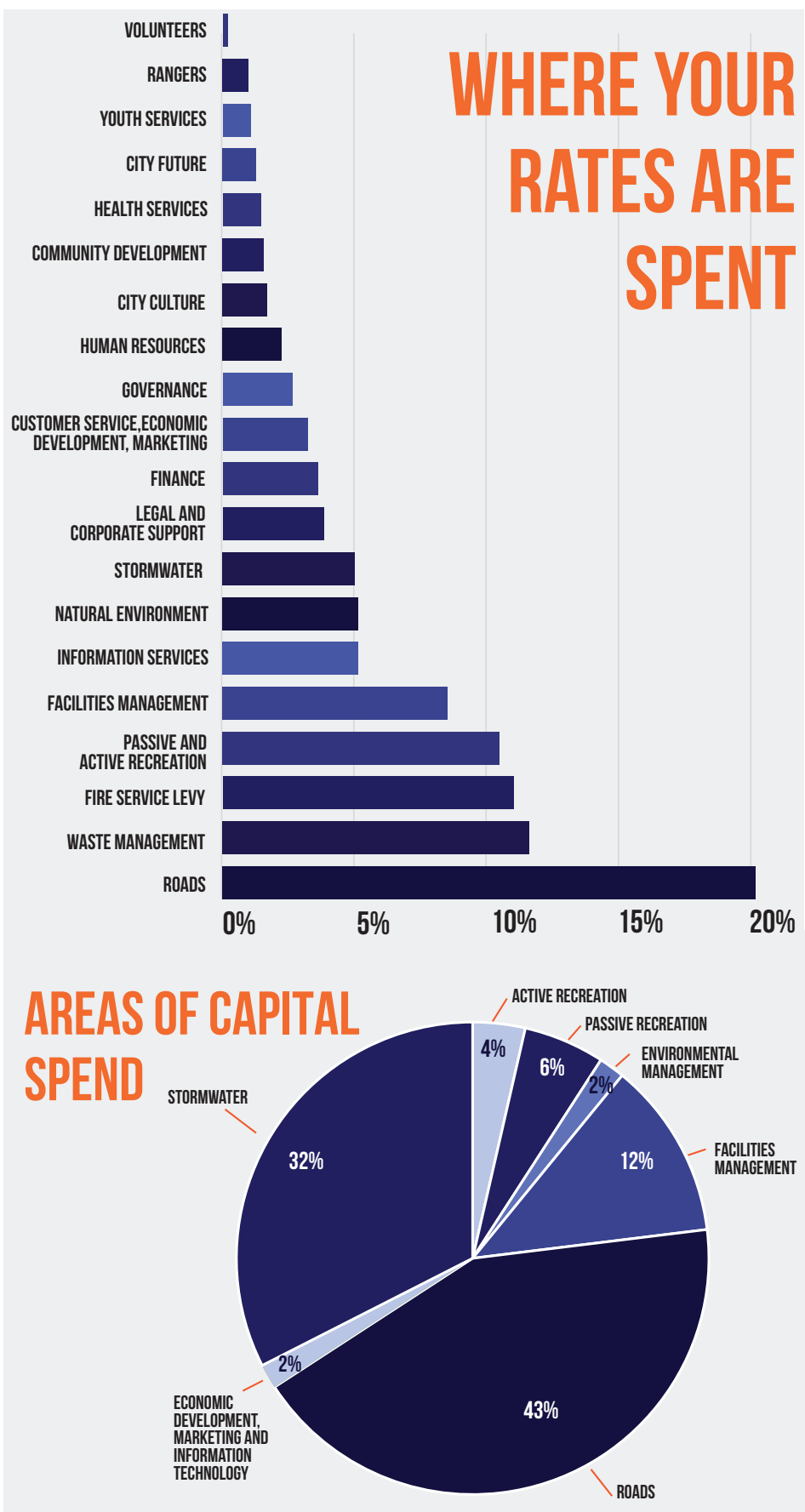
Given this growth in building, population and use of our parks, playgrounds and track infrastructure, it is vital that we plan for the future and ensure that appropriate services are in place.

To be able to deliver increased levels of service and amenities as an organisation while still only seeing a relative rate increase of 1.89 percent per year over the last two years is a credit to sound financial management principles employed over a long period of time, the same principles which will serve us, and future generations well in the decades to come.

### WHAT IS IN MY ANNUAL RATES NOTICE?

Your rates notice is made up of general rates and other service charges including:

- General rate
- Stormwater rate if you are connected to stormwater services
- Waste service charges
- State Government fire levy



### GENERAL RATES AND WASTE SERVICE CHARGES

General rates are charged by council to fund a range of services listed above.

General rates are payable for all rateable properties in the municipality. In 2021/22 council has levied separate 'cents in the dollar' rates for all rateable land (except that which is exempt by State law).

The waste service charges are what council charges for managing waste services including kerbside waste, recycling and green waste.





# COUNCIL TAKING URGENT ACTION ON HOWRAH BEACH POOR WATER GRADING

Clarence City Council is extremely concerned about deteriorating water quality levels at Howrah Beach and has ramped up investigations into the possible sources of contamination following the middle section being downgraded to 'poor', as part of the recent Derwent Estuary Program's Water Quality Program Annual Report.

Swimming in that section of the beach is now not recommended given recent monitoring of the water has shown high levels of bacteria which may pose a risk to health.

Advisory signage will be installed as soon as possible to indicate which section of Howrah Beach is affected.

The report also saw the east and west sections of the beach return a 'fair' rating – previously rated 'good' – however Little Howrah Beach is still classified as 'good'.

Clarence City Council Mayor Alderman Doug Chipman said council was extremely concerned about the development and had been proactively looking into reasons for the declining

water quality for some time now.

"This has been on our radar for a few years and getting to the source of the contamination is a top priority for council," he said.

"We have already taken steps to extend the funding for our Howrah stormwater investigation projects for an additional 12 months, allowing for a more intensive testing program of the nearby stormwater catchments.

"We are also currently advertising a position for a full-time Stormwater Officer for that period to accelerate the investigations and get Howrah Beach back to an acceptable level as quickly as possible.

"On top of this, council has allocated \$6.97 million towards stormwater upgrades as part of its 2021-22 capital works program.

"We will be working closely with the Derwent Estuary Program and TasWater on trying to identify what is contributing to the 'poor' result.

"Communicating with the public will be critical throughout this process, so public health advisory signage will be installed as soon as possible, and we will be providing regular updates as investigations continue.

"We know that part of the attraction of living in our city is the beautiful beaches on offer and we understand that this result will be disappointing for the community, we feel that way too."

Council has engaged Water Quality Scientist Dr Christine Coughanowr (founder of the Derwent Estuary Program) to assist in developing and implementing a staged investigation into the potential sources of contamination.

Investigations will begin with the analysis of the recent and historical impacts of rainfall, tides, and wind events, and an examination of the potential contaminant sources including stormwater outfalls, sewage main leaks, groundwater contamination from the historic tip, birds, dogs, and in situ sources (e.g. contaminated sand).

This will be followed by targeted sampling of stormwater, monitoring of faecal bacteria in the sand, alternate source tracking methods (e.g. sterols) and possible shallow groundwater sampling.

Mayor Chipman said while council was working hard to get to the bottom of the poor water grading, it was important that everyone did their part in improving the overall quality of the Derwent River.

"The health of the Derwent is everyone's responsibility and we urge all residents and visitors to the area to be mindful of what you are washing down the stormwater drain, picking up after your dog, not feeding ducks, geese and seagulls, and in general doing what you can to take care of our wonderful environment," he said.

"The community can rest assured that we are doing everything in our control to return the middle of Howrah Beach to a safe water quality rating and restore confidence in one of our city's central beaches."

Council will be holding several community information sessions over the coming months.

# OPTIONS ON THE TABLE FOR KANGAROO BAY DEVELOPMENT

Representatives of Chambroad Overseas Investment Australia Pty Ltd (Chambroad) presented to a council workshop last month with a potential path forward for the Kangaroo Bay hotel development following the exit of the University of Tasmania from the project.

As previously announced, council was formally advised in May by UTAS that it could no longer commit to delivering a Tourism and Hospitality School in Kangaroo Bay in partnership with Chambroad.

Clarence City Council Mayor Alderman Doug Chipman said Chambroad put forward several options to council at the workshop as a way for the project to progress.

"It is clear that Chambroad remains committed to seeing this project through and provided Aldermen with a range



Artist rendering of the Kangaroo Bay development - Circe Morris-Nunn Architects.

of options on what could take the place of the UTAS component of the project alongside the planned hotel development," he said.

"Council was presented with four options for formal consideration and Aldermen were then given the opportunity to ask questions of the representatives."

The four options put forward for formal consideration by Aldermen were:

1. Consider 'other uses' for the approved buildings.

- Building A as a hotel and apartments.
- Building B & C for commercial uses.

2. Consider 'other uses' for the approved

buildings.

- Building A as a hotel and apartments.
- Buildings B & C as a multi-purpose community facility under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with council, or other community facility.

3. Consider any other uses for buildings A, B & C through a community engagement and consultation process.

4. Consider negotiation of a commercial settlement.

"Council will now consider these options as well as any others it considers to be viable and look to provide advice to Chambroad in the near future," Mayor Chipman said.



## BALANCE SOUGHT IN BEGONIA STREET CONSULTATION

The long-awaited upgrade to Begonia Street is within sight with consultation on council's preferred option open from 13 July to 24 August 2021.

The Flagstaff Gully end of Begonia Street is currently unsealed to discourage it being used as an alternate route for vehicles avoiding the Tasman Highway to travel between Mornington and Lindisfarne.

The preferred option – to seal the road and install slow points and road humps – seeks to balance the needs of local residents while eliminating the ongoing costs associated with grading the gravel road.

Clarence City Council Mayor Alderman

Doug Chipman said council understood that there had been long-standing concerns with the residents of Begonia Street.

"We are aware that the residents are concerned about the amount of traffic on the road and its use as an alternate route to the Tasman Highway, especially during morning and afternoon peak hour times," he said.

"Begonia Street has been on our radar for a number of years and we have engaged with the community in the past on potential solutions.

"Council has determined that the number of vehicles using the road is too high to

continue to cost effectively maintain as a gravel surface, so we feel this preferred option to seal the road and introduce traffic calming measures, including road humps and slow points, will strike a fair balance."

The community is invited to visit Your Say Clarence to review the plan and provide their feedback and comments.

Council staff will also be holding a pop-up information session at Clarence City Council chambers on Wednesday 28 July from 12-2pm. Another session will also be held at Lindisfarne Activity Centre, with exact time and date to be confirmed.

For more information or to have you say, visit [www.yoursay.ccc.tas.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.ccc.tas.gov.au).



# GARDEN GROWING INTO A THRIVING COMMUNITY SPACE

A once empty block of land transformed into a thriving garden has received a new lease on life after receiving a notice of intention from Clarence City Council for an additional 10-year lease.

The Heemskirk Community Garden, which is located on Clarence City Council land, was established by the Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre (WMNC) and in its two years of

operation its growth has surpassed initial expectations.

Clarence City Council Mayor Alderman Doug Chipman said the garden was a great example of what could be achieved when people from the community worked together.

"It is remarkable what the volunteers have been able to accomplish in a relatively short period of time - all who

have been involved should be proud of their work and dedication," he said.

"I look forward to watching this garden grow for many years to come and seeing more people from the community get involved."

Heemskirk Community Garden Project Officer Leah Brightman said while growing the food in the garden was important, there was so much more happening, including the wonderful connections people were making.

"This is more than just a garden, it is also a community space where people can come together and share experiences, as well as learning new gardening skills," she said.

Highlights of the garden include the sponsored fruit trees, where people from the community donated a tree in memory of a family member, and the 'food forest', which features different food producing plants and has been a popular resource for people wanting to learn about permaculture and growing food at home.

Anyone interested in getting involved can call the Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre or find them on Facebook.



Left to right - Em McMullen (kneeling), Anna Kingston, Leah Brightman, Mayor of Clarence Alderman Doug Chipman & Sam Ralph (kneeling).

## HAVE YOUR SAY IN STAGE TWO OF DOG POLICY CONSULTATION

The second stage of consultation on the revised Draft Dog Management Policy is underway, after the first stage saw more than 3000 respondents have their say.

The updated policy recommends no changes to Roches, Howrah and Bellerive beaches, in line with vast community support for things to stay the same.

Anzac Park, in Lindisfarne, is also recommended to stay off-lead, with a reminder that dogs near or on the walking track should be on-lead, as is currently the case.

Clarence City Council Mayor Alderman Doug Chipman said he believed the report reflected the overall priorities of the community and feedback received.

"We thank everyone for getting involved and helping to shape this policy," he said.

"We encourage the community to stay

engaged in this process during this second stage of consultation."

Other recommendations include moving to on-lead for council bushland reserves, nature recreation areas, and multi-user pathways.

These changes would bring these reserves and multi-user pathways in line

with their respective Reserve Activity Plans and considers safety concerns from increased and varying use of some pathways - particularly since the emergence of COVID-19.

The second draft of the Dog Management Policy is available for comment until 28 July 2021 at [www.yoursay.ccc.tas.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.ccc.tas.gov.au).



Pictured, local 'good boy' Mack enjoying South Arm Beach.



# ALDERMEN'S ARTICLES



**Deputy Mayor  
Alderman  
Heather Chong**

Budget and rates setting is always an exacting and thorough process.

The rates increase of 3.77% (averaging 1.89% per year for 2020-21) gives council capacity to undertake a large capital works program - roads, footpaths, stormwater, tracks and trails as well as the much-loved community programs such as Jazz, Fitness in the Park, Live Well, Live Long and Community Volunteers to name but a few.

As vaccination levels increase and restrictions ease, we can all hopefully look forward to a more normal life. Stay well and stay warm during winter and remember, if needed, the COVID hardship policy is still available.

*Council policy provides an opportunity for Aldermen to rotationally place an article in the City of Clarence News.*



**Alderman  
Richard James**

When I was first elected to the Clarence Council in March 1984 there were in excess of 46 councils in Tasmania with three Clarence councillors elected for each of the Lindisfarne, Bellerive, Cambridge and Sandford Wards. I believe fewer councils are necessary in a proposal of local government reform.

Should Clarence City Council decide to merge with a neighbouring council then standard conditions and local area provisions apply with the introduction of the new State-wide Planning Scheme.

Local government reform needs to include Wards or Divisions so that the community has councillors representing them on local issues.

## CLARENCE PRIZE RETURNS THIS WINTER

Winter is looking a little more inviting this year as the ever-popular Clarence Prize returns to once again offer a world-class exhibition of innovative design.



*Previous winner, local artist Laura McCusker.*

Held biennially by Clarence City Council, entries to the prize are shortlisted by judges who seek out ingenuity in furniture design, focusing on function, purpose, material considerations and sustainability – as well as being visually pleasing.

The prize for excellence in furniture design offers up to \$20,000, with the winning work acquired into the Clarence Art Collection.

Clarence City Council Mayor Alderman Doug Chipman said he was thrilled to learn there were three Tasmanian entries selected as finalists in 2021.

"Seeing local representation is fantastic, as this competition always draws a high standard of talent and this year is no exception," he said.

"It is pleasing to see this event go ahead this year after being postponed last year due to the effects of COVID-19."

The finalist exhibition will run from 16 July – 15 August 2021 in the Rosny Barn.

## Your Aldermen



**Mayor  
Alderman Doug Chipman**  
PO Box 96, Rosny Park  
0409 704 835  
mayor@ccc.tas.gov.au



**Deputy Mayor  
Alderman Heather Chong**  
331 Fingerpost Road, Richmond  
0408 604 509  
ald\_hchong@ccc.tas.gov.au



**Alderman Richard James**  
107 Gordons Hill Road, Lindisfarne  
0418 135 808  
rjames@trump.net.au



**Alderman Wendy Kennedy**  
PO Box 96, Rosny Park  
0438 100 446  
ald\_wkennedy@ccc.tas.gov.au



**Alderman Brendan Blomeley**  
PO Box 109, Lindisfarne  
0413 972 307  
brendan@brendanblomeley.com



**Alderman Beth Warren**  
PO Box 96, Rosny Park  
0438 439 219  
ald\_bwarren@ccc.tas.gov.au



**Alderman James Walker**  
PO Box 260, Lindisfarne  
0421 320 669  
ald\_jwalker@ccc.tas.gov.au



**Alderman Sharyn von Bertouch**  
PO Box 96, Rosny Park  
0429 199 113  
ald\_svonbertouch@ccc.tas.gov.au



**Alderman John Peers**  
PO Box 11, Lindisfarne  
0419 309 220  
peersccc@netspace.net.au



**Alderman Luke Edmunds**  
PO Box 96, Rosny Park  
0499 990 232  
lukeedmundsccc@gmail.com



**Alderman Tony Mulder**  
PO Box 96, Rosny Park  
0428 685 337  
tony@mulder.net.au



**Alderman Dean Ewington**  
PO Box 96, Rosny Park  
0418 146 546  
ald\_dewington@ccc.tas.gov.au