

2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR

Budget message

CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED ITS BUDGET FOR THE 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR AT ITS MEETING ON MONDAY, 5 JUNE, WITH KEY ROAD, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FACILITIES PROJECTS PRIORITISED.

This year we have focused on the important balance between ensuring our city continues to grow and thrive while also being mindful of the pressure of rising costs of living felt by our residents, ratepayers and businesses.

Thanks to strong leadership and prudent financial decision-making in the past Clarence City Council has one of the strongest financial positions of any local government body in the State.

It is because of this strong position that we have been able to deliver an average rate increase of 6.53%, below the current rate of inflation for Hobart of 6.9% (March CPI), and substantially lower than the Local Government Cost Index of 8.11% released earlier in the year.

Thanks to decades of responsible governance by council, and our long-term financial strategy, council is in a position to realise benefit from strong financial returns on investments – which has also assisted in keeping council rates lower than otherwise would have been the case in the 2023-24 financial year.

The City of Clarence continues to experience rapid growth ahead of most municipalities in the State, with some of the fastest-growing suburbs located in Clarence.



Opening event for the new takara limuna walking trail, find out more about the trail at www.ccc.tas.gov.au/community/culture-history/takara-limuna.

The 2023-24 budget provides a capital works program of \$28.9 million for renewal and new capital works, which is a sizable increase from last year and is part of council's forward planning to ensure our city is maintained for years to come. This brings the total ongoing capital works program approved by council to approximately \$55 million.

Long-term strategic projects are crucial to the management of our city and council has planned to ensure the facilities we have are well maintained while also developing new assets for the future.

New master plans and projects which have been budgeted in the 2023-24 financial year include the Open Space Strategy, Clifton Beach Recreation Master Plan, Richmond Village Master Plan, Wentworth Park Master Plan, and the Geilston Bay Sport and Recreation Precinct Plan.

Council will continue its responsibilities for issuing permits, certificates, notices, and orders as well as providing sound and timely relevant information, assistance, and guidance regarding building and plumbing matters.

Our city's extraordinary growth is set to continue paving the way for a bright and prosperous future ahead for our great city.

THE \$28.9 MILLION CAPITAL PROGRAM APPROVED IN THE 2023-24 BUDGET WILL INCLUDE:

Pass Road upgrade \$6.1 million	Stormwater upgrades \$2.06 million	Cambridge Dog Park construction \$800,000	Clarence Foreshore Trail – Rosny College to Tasman Bridge Stage 3 \$350,000	Roches Beach Road (drainage and footpath upgrades) \$230,000
Major digouts and pavement reconstruction \$2.5 million	Road resealing program \$1.25 million	Backhouse Lane road upgrade \$800,000	Howrah stormwater detention basins investigation and design \$300,000	Rosny Early Learning Centre \$220,000
A new facility for Outside School Care and Family Day Care \$2.5 million	Council Chambers expansion project \$1 million	Begonia Street upgrade to sealed road \$800,000	ANZAC Park community sports pavilion \$290,000	Kangaroo Bay gross pollutant trap \$200,000
Footpath, kerb and gutter works program \$2.23 million	Fairfield Road stormwater upgrade \$825,000	Dorans Road retaining wall \$500,000		Play space ongoing renewal and upgrades \$200,000



Richmond Bicentenary is coming soon!

Find out more at www.richmond200.com

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2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR

Where your rates are spent

Clarence City Council has a total 455kms or 3.15 million square metres of sealed roads. Council resurfaces 168,000 square metres each year, that equates to 8.4 Melbourne Cricket Grounds!



Council's stormwater network is made up of 467kms of pipes. Total annual runoff through the pipes and rivulets is approximately 39 billion litres, this equals 15,600 Olympic size swimming pools!



Clarence's active recreation areas include 63 playgrounds with two new sites under construction, seven skate parks, seven outdoor exercise parks, one off lead dog park, one learn to ride park and two bmx/pump tracks!

Council manages 207 open spaces including a total of 346km of trails for walking, cycling, mountain biking and horse riding. The Clarence Foreshore Trail saw 794,772 visits from 2022 to May 2023!



Council emptied general waste bins 1,286,120 times, recycle bins 606,497 times and green bins 216,584 times. That equals 10,625 tonnes of rubbish, 3,848 tonnes of recycling and 4,367 tonnes of green waste!



Over 15,000 people attended events managed by our Arts and Events team. 24 exhibitions were held at the Rosny Farm Arts Centre with over 7,675 visits, and over 4,200 people attended gigs and concerts!



Clarence City Council vaccinated 432 clients with nationally funded vaccines at 27 community clinics.

The council's school vaccination program administered 1,235 vaccines to high school students in Clarence!

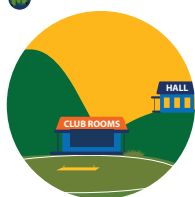
Clarence City Council's Community Support Grants Program supported 18 community groups in 2022-2023.

60 young athletes were awarded financial help with our Quick Response Grant Program!



Time frame for statistics: 2022-2023 financial year

Areas of Capital Spend 2023 - 2024



Roads	\$18,634,500
Facilities management	\$5,238,000
Recreation	\$2,561,000
Stormwater	\$2,060,000
Economic development	\$151,900
Information management	\$150,000
Environmental management	\$110,000
Waste management	\$20,000
Total	\$28,930,900

BUDGET

How we framed our budget

OUR CITY CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH, WITH THE LATEST AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS (ABS) RELEASE SHOWING A POPULATION INCREASE OF 12% BETWEEN 2016 TO 2021, WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL WHEN FRAMING THE BUDGET EACH YEAR.

The increased growth places many pressures on council such as increased needs for public open spaces, increased maintenance of these areas, extra maintenance costs on facilities and assets, increased street lighting costs, higher demand for waste services, and an increase in demand on our stormwater network.

Council is mindful of the pressures our ratepayers are under – with everyone experiencing a rising cost of living – and it takes this into consideration when making financial decisions that will impact people throughout the city.

“Council’s budget is also framed around its long-term financial plan and long-term financial sustainability.”

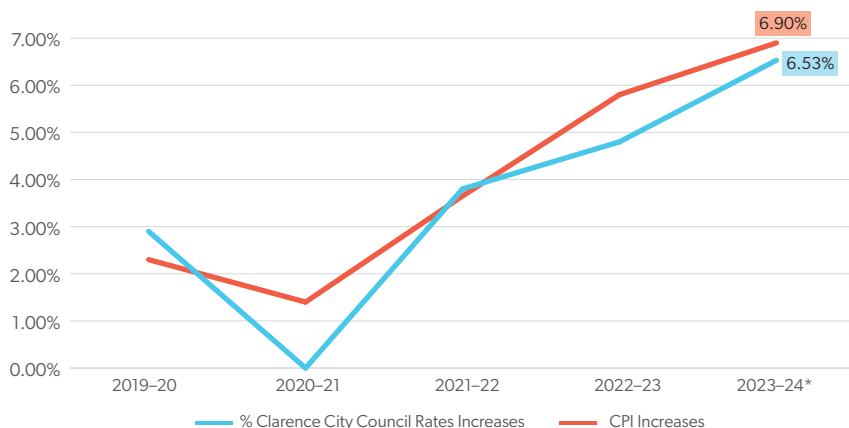
This ensures council can continue to deliver services, maintain assets and continue to develop new infrastructure for the community in a sustainable manner.

Developing our Capital Program

Over the last five years, council’s average capital program per year has been \$20.5 million.

With such a large ongoing program and the rising cost of living, increased material costs, high inflation, and significant resource constraints, many capital projects will carry over into the new financial year. Generally speaking, our capital program is a rolling three-to-four-year program.

Rate increase 2023–24



Developing our Operations Budget

Significant increases in financial and economic indicators such as the recent March Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures placed extreme pressure on our operations budget. The underlying cost base of council’s operations has been increased due to many of our ongoing major contracts and agreements being linked to CPI.

This has created an extremely challenging budget environment as we seek to balance the current needs of our community, undertaking critical renewal works, and ensuring council remains in a sound financial position for the years to come.

When considering these pressures, council activities were closely examined to ensure the proposed actions aligned with the Strategic Plan. This process began in September 2022 when budget submissions were welcomed by council’s committees, closely followed in December with managers reviewing cost centre budgets for the 2023-24 financial year. Once all proposed budgets were reviewed by managers and the CEO, Councillor feedback was provided in a series of workshop discussions which continued with Councillors over several months to work through the many facets of council’s budget.

This detailed approach to the development of our budget has helped council to strike a balance between asset development, regulatory functions we are required to perform, and delivering programs and services that we know are valued by the community.

Council has been able to approve a financially and economically responsible budget which includes a rate increase on average of 6.53%, less than Hobart’s Consumer Price Index of 6.9%. This increase is also substantially lower than the Local Government Cost Index which was 8.11% earlier this year.

How are your rates calculated?



COUNCIL CALCULATES RATES BASED ON THE CAPITAL VALUE OF EACH PROPERTY. THE LAND, CAPITAL AND ASSESSED ANNUAL VALUES ARE PROVIDED TO COUNCIL BY THE OFFICE OF THE VALUER GENERAL AND MUST BE APPLIED TO EACH PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY AS GIVEN.

Each property is charged a General Rate and those within the storm water district are charged for storm water services.

Bin charges for collection and disposal costs are included on your rates notice. Each residential dwelling unit, within the waste collection areas of the city, are charged for waste, recycling and green waste bins as well as collection each year, whether the property uses the service or not. Your Bin charges can vary depending on the size and number of bins you have, council has a number of different sized bins available, find out more on our website: www.ccc.tas.gov.au/living/waste-recycling/bin-placement-non-collection-sizes-damage.

Council also collects a Fire Service Levy and Waste Levy on behalf of the Tasmanian Government. All councils are required by law to collect these levies for the state government.

Concessions

The State Government provides a remission to eligible ratepayers. To be eligible to receive the remission in 2023-24, as at 1 July 2023 you must:

- Be the owner and occupier of the property for which you are claiming a remission, and, the property must be your principal place of residence.
- Have one of the following valid cards with a date of grant of 1 July 2023 or prior:
 - Services Australia or DVA Pensioner Concession Card
 - Services Australia Health Care Card (but not a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card)
 - DVA Veteran Gold Card – Inscribed with TPI or “War Widow”

If you received a remission on your last annual notice and your circumstances have not changed a discount will automatically apply.

You can apply in person at council’s offices or online at www.ccc.tas.gov.au/rates.

Applications will be accepted until 31 March 2024. Should you receive one of the above cards during the financial year you will need to wait until 1 July 2024 to make an application.

RATES

How to pay your rates

Council offers a range of payment options, please refer to your Rates Notice for your Payment Reference Numbers. The full range of payment options are shown on your rates notice.



Direct
Debit



BPAY



Australia Post



Online
payments



By mail – Cheques
or Money Orders



In person at
council offices



By phone –
1300 276 468

Direct Debit Advantages

Options for direct debit payments are:

- Four instalments at due dates
- 11 monthly payments July to May that are deducted on the last working day of each month
- 24 fortnightly payments July to June will be deducted every second Friday.

No interest or penalty will apply on maintained direct debits.

Each Direct Debit is calculated to be paid up to date by the end of each financial year.

Even if you are in arrears, you can still pay via a Direct Debit.

You can start using Direct Debit at any time during the year. Please note this service is not available for use with credit cards.

Direct Debit applications are available by phoning **6217 9650** or through the website www.ccc.tas.gov.au/rates.



When your rates are due

Rates are scheduled for payment in four instalments. You may pay the total rates in one instalment; however, the total rates amount must be received by the first instalment date: 3 August 2023.

Note there is no discount for paying the total rates in August.

RATES INSTALMENT DATES

3 August 2023

3 October 2023

31 January 2024

28 March 2024



FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

*If you are having difficulty paying your rates, please contact council to discuss payment plans and financial hardship relief options. We understand that sometimes a situation may occur that can impact your ability to pay for services. This could be an illness, accident, loss of employment, family issues or a change in your circumstances. To discuss a mutually agreeable payment plan or financial hardship please contact our rates office on **6217 9650** or email at rates@ccc.tas.gov.au.*

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Best practice waste policy the goal for Clarence

THE CITY OF CLARENCE HAS TAKEN ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS BEST-PRACTICE WASTE MANAGEMENT WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE ANNUAL HARD WASTE COLLECTION.

This decision is in-line with council's Sustainability Strategy and is working towards a better, cleaner future for our city now and for the generations to come.

The decision to remove hard waste collection was made following extensive research and brings Clarence City Council's waste strategy in-line with many other councils in Tasmania – including Hobart and Glenorchy.

Last year the total amount of hard waste collected was 1242.3 tonnes – a shocking 33% increase from the previous collection.

Almost all the hard waste collected this year went directly to landfill – a total of 1181.2 tonnes, meaning less than 5% of materials collected were able to be recovered, reused, or repurposed into something new.

Research also found hard waste collection no longer makes financial sense in the current economic climate with the rising costs of operations.

Another factor in the removal of hard waste collection was the inability of service providers

to undertake the program into the future, especially with rapid growth in the tonnage of waste collected.

If a contractor could be found – which would be unlikely – carrying out an annual hard waste service as it has been in the past would equate to a rates increase of more than 1% over and above the existing increase for 2023-24 financial year.

Clarence City Council Mayor, Brendan Blomeley, said local governments should be leaders within communities for promoting greener practices – especially those that make both logical and economic sense.

“The sheer volume of waste that was collected this year was simply gob-smacking, with an increase in many large items – we saw a 150% increase in mattresses alone,” he said.

“Not only is hard waste an environmentally undesirable, expensive program, but continuing this service does not champion responsible consumption and production, which is a key tenet of our recently adopted Sustainability Strategy.

“There will be some in the community who will be concerned about the change, however, it is the job of any council to show good governance and responsible leadership –

sometimes this means making unpopular decisions for the betterment of the municipality at large.”

Council strongly encourages all residents to consider giving away or selling their unwanted items which are still in working order through online marketplaces, garage sales, or charities.

In order to improve sustainability and to meet State and Federal targets of reducing waste to landfill by 5%, per person, by 2025, please consider taking your materials to Mornington Park Waste Transfer Station, or another disposal facility, as a place of last resort.

In the next financial year council will be looking for new ways to educate and engage with the community on new more efficient ways to work towards a circular economy that focuses on the waste hierarchy to avoid – reduce, reuse, repair, recycle, recover – before disposing of waste.



Volunteers front and centre at the Clarence Community Spirit Gala

CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL HELD ITS CLARENCE COMMUNITY SPIRIT GALA AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY IN MAY.

The gala was a celebration of the invaluable contribution volunteers make in our community, and the perfect event to showcase the generosity, hard work, and commitment that makes a huge positive difference in Clarence.

The nominees for the awards represented a diverse cross-section of the community, with involvement in a wide range of organisations.



Clarence City Council Citizen of the Year Award winner Lewis Taylor with Clarence City Council Mayor Brendan Blomeley.

The winners of the 2023 Citizenship Awards are:

COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR

- The Rosny Library – Clarence Reads Twilight Reading Fair
- Warrane Community Garden Springfest
- Bellerive Parkrun

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Grace Williams

SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Alan and Annette Richardson

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Lewis Taylor

Read more about our winners here
www.ccc.tas.gov.au/2023-clarence-city-council-citizenship-awards



Water quality improvements make a splash in Clarence

SWIMMERS CAN RETURN TO THE MIDDLE OF HOWRAH BEACH THIS COMING SUMMER WITH THE WATER QUALITY THERE AND AT THE WEST OF BELLERIVE BEACH IMPROVING MARKEDLY IN THE LATEST RELEASE OF RESULTS FROM THE DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM.

Both Howrah Beach (mid) and Bellerive Beach (west) have had their long-term water quality ratings upgraded as a result of the council's focus on improving water quality, along with strong support from TasWater, to address issues in a timely manner.

Clarence City Council Mayor, Brendan Blomeley, said he was thrilled by the announcement and proud of the outcomes achieved by council.

"We took swift action in 2021 when the middle of Howrah Beach was downgraded to poor and a no-swim recommendation



Left to right: Clarence City Council Environmental Health Officer Andrew Forshaw, Senior Environmental Health Officer Scott Edwards, Derwent Estuary Program CEO Ursula Taylor, Clarence City Council Mayor Brendan Blomeley, TasWater Department Manager Frances Smith, and Clarence City Council Maintenance Officer Barry Mayne at Howrah Beach.

was placed on that section of the beach," Mayor Blomeley said.

"We put a full-time staff member on the issue and worked closely with TasWater on addressing cross connections and other issues as soon as possible after we uncovered them.

"Council will continue to have a proactive approach to maintaining and improving water

quality at these sites, and other beaches throughout our municipality."

Public education on stormwater pollution and appropriate remediation, and intervention measures upstream of the beach, will continue in the 2023-24 financial year.

COUNCILLOR FOCUS

From your Councillors

**COUNCILLOR BREE HUNTER**

What an incredible journey my first term on council has been! We've achieved remarkable things in a matter of months.

Rejecting the Skylands proposal for Droughty Point was a significant decision that tested my values and demanded courage. We also voted to buy back Kangaroo Bay, gaining invaluable lessons and boosting my confidence in making sound judgments.

As Chair of the Sustainability and Bicycle Committees, I'm honoured and excited for the opportunity to foster meaningful discussions and drive strategic actions through these platforms.

**COUNCILLOR DANIEL HULME**

The rising cost of providing services and infrastructure is a significant challenge for local government, particularly when the households and businesses that fund it through rates are also under pressure.

How do we keep up with the expectation of residents and ratepayers to provide first class services without adding to financial stress?

The solution is economic development. Clarence has so much unrealised potential – in retail, manufacturing, primary production and tourism. During my previous term on council I advocated for the 2016-21 Economic Development Plan. Continuing to pursue this plan while also developing a revised plan is unfinished business for council.

**COUNCILLOR BETH WARREN**

What a difference a few new voices at the table makes.

Your new council is now over six months old and if you ever listen in to a council meeting, you'll hear respectful, reasoned debate (mostly!)

We have a diverse council which better represents our community.

Challenges ahead include improving access for all to Clarence facilities, managing waste to reduce landfill and taking real action to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

But I'm confident we now have the will to address these challenges as well as continuing to deliver the services that you expect from your council.

Your representatives

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