



# COMMUNITY

2024 - 2034

DRAFT

# STRATEGIC PLAN





In recognition of the deep history and culture of Lutruwita/Tasmania, we acknowledge the Pallitorre and Panninher peoples, the traditional owners of the Land upon which we gather.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and to all Tasmanian Aboriginal communities, for they hold the memories, the knowledge, and the culture and hopes of Aboriginal Tasmania.

# CONTENTS

---

Mayor’s message	5
About Meander Valley	6
Snapshot of Meander Valley	7
Council Strategic Planning Framework	8
Our purpose	9
Our community values	10
Made by us all	11
Our Community Strategic Directions	12
Reporting our progress	18



## LEGISLATIVE BASIS

Meander Valley Council operates under the *Local Government Act 1993*, which requires us to create a ten year community strategic plan for our municipality and review it every four years.

This renewed Community Strategic Plan for 2024-2034 has been developed through a collaborative process involving extensive community engagement, and input from subject matter experts and key stakeholders. Beginning in late 2023, we worked with the community to better understand their challenges, priorities and plans for Meander Valley's future, and how we can best collaborate and communicate as we bring them into fruition.

The result is captured in this Community Strategic Plan, reflecting the aspirations, priorities and values of the Meander Valley community, our vision for the future, and our plans to grow a vibrant and thriving region over the next decade.

## CONTACT

**Phone**  
(03) 6393 5300

**Email**  
[mail@mvc.tas.gov.au](mailto:mail@mvc.tas.gov.au)

**Mail**  
Meander Valley Council  
PO Box 102, Westbury,  
Tasmania 7303

**In Person**  
Meander Valley Council Chambers  
26 Lyall Street, Westbury,  
Tasmania, 7303

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



I am thrilled to present the **Meander Valley Council Community Strategic Plan 2024–2034**.

This plan shows how we'll work with residents, ratepayers, and businesses to ensure a bright future for our community.

We asked for your opinions on our region's challenges and priorities and what you envision for our future. By gathering meaningful input from our community to guide the decision-making process I believe this plan, and the strategies within it, reflect and align with the needs and aspirations of our diverse population.

Our updated Community Strategic Plan builds on the vision set out in our last plan, covering 2014 to 2024, with refined strategies and a focus on new priorities. It reflects the hopes, values, and goals of the Meander Valley community, setting the course for the next decade.

Our strategic directions are:

1. **Cultivating a diverse, unified, and empowered community**
2. **Valuing and protecting our natural environment**
3. **Creating a well-designed, sustainable built environment**
4. **Investing in infrastructure that strengthens connection**
5. **Delivering responsible leadership and governance**

---

This plan will guide our decisions and resource allocation to tackle future challenges and opportunities. However, we can't do it alone. Achieving our goals requires the participation of everyone in our community. Together, we can bring this shared vision to life and ensure a thriving future for Meander Valley.

Let's continue to shape a thriving future for Meander Valley.

**Wayne Johnston**  
**Mayor, Meander Valley Council**



# ABOUT MEANDER VALLEY

Humanity's story on the land we know as Meander Valley began around 40,000 years ago, when it was the home of the Pallitorre and Panninher peoples.

Pallitorre Country stretches from the rugged ridges of the Western Tiers, beyond Quamby Bluff, up the north-west peaks of the Gog Mountain range and into Deloraine. Panninher Country is south of Drys Bluff, along the Liffey River towards the Tamar, and across the vast open plains of the midlands.

Nestled in the heart of Tasmania, Meander Valley is a fertile and flourishing region. We're positioned 41 degrees south of the equator, where the soil is richest and the conditions are made for growing. Short walks wind through the wilderness, rivers meander through the towns, and the Great Western Tiers stretch across our horizon. With our rolling farmlands and roadside produce, you wouldn't know we're only a drive away from the cities of Devonport and Launceston.

Living on such fertile ground, our community has grown all kinds of things – from organic crops to local cafes, sports clubs and conservation programs. You'll find community groups springing up on every corner and a place where new skills are nurtured and creative ideas can blossom. We're a diverse bunch, but our different threads are woven together to create a close-knit community. And no matter how much our region grows, you'll always find historic streets and good old-fashioned country hospitality everywhere you go. Whether you're in the rural towns to the west, or the urban and peri-urban communities on the east, we always have time for a chat, a seat to spare and something homemade to share.

But it's not just our community that's flourishing – our local economy is thriving, too. Agriculture has deep roots in our region, but there's a mix of new industries that are starting to grow – including forestry, fishing, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, construction, transport, logistics, tourism and local small businesses.

We all contribute to the abundance of this place, and as we plan for 2024-2034, we celebrate our vibrant community and look forward to a future made by Meander Valley.



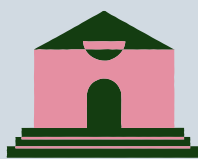
# SNAPSHOT OF MEANDER VALLEY



**21,356  
RESIDENTS**



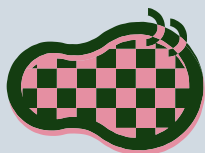
**8  
SPORTING  
GROUNDS**



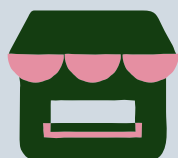
**13  
PUBLIC  
HALLS**



**193  
BRIDGES**



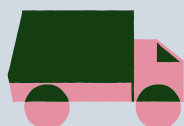
**2  
MUNICIPAL  
SWIMMING  
POOLS**



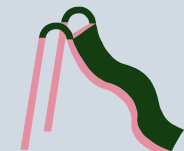
**1,644  
LOCAL  
BUSINESSES**



**9  
ELECTED  
MEMBERS**



**7,060  
KERBSIDE  
COLLECTIONS**



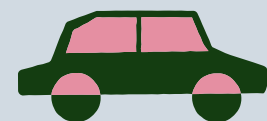
**36  
PLAYGROUNDS  
AND FITNESS  
STATIONS**



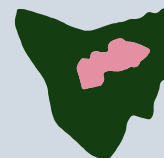
**7 BIKE AND  
SKATE PARKS**



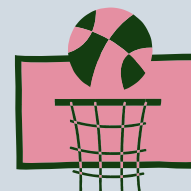
**58  
PARKS AND  
RESERVES**



**828 KILOMETRES  
OF ROAD NETWORKS**



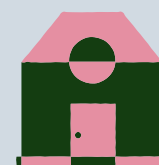
**3,327  
SQUARE  
KILOMETRES  
OF LAND AREA**



**41  
SPORTING  
FACILITIES**



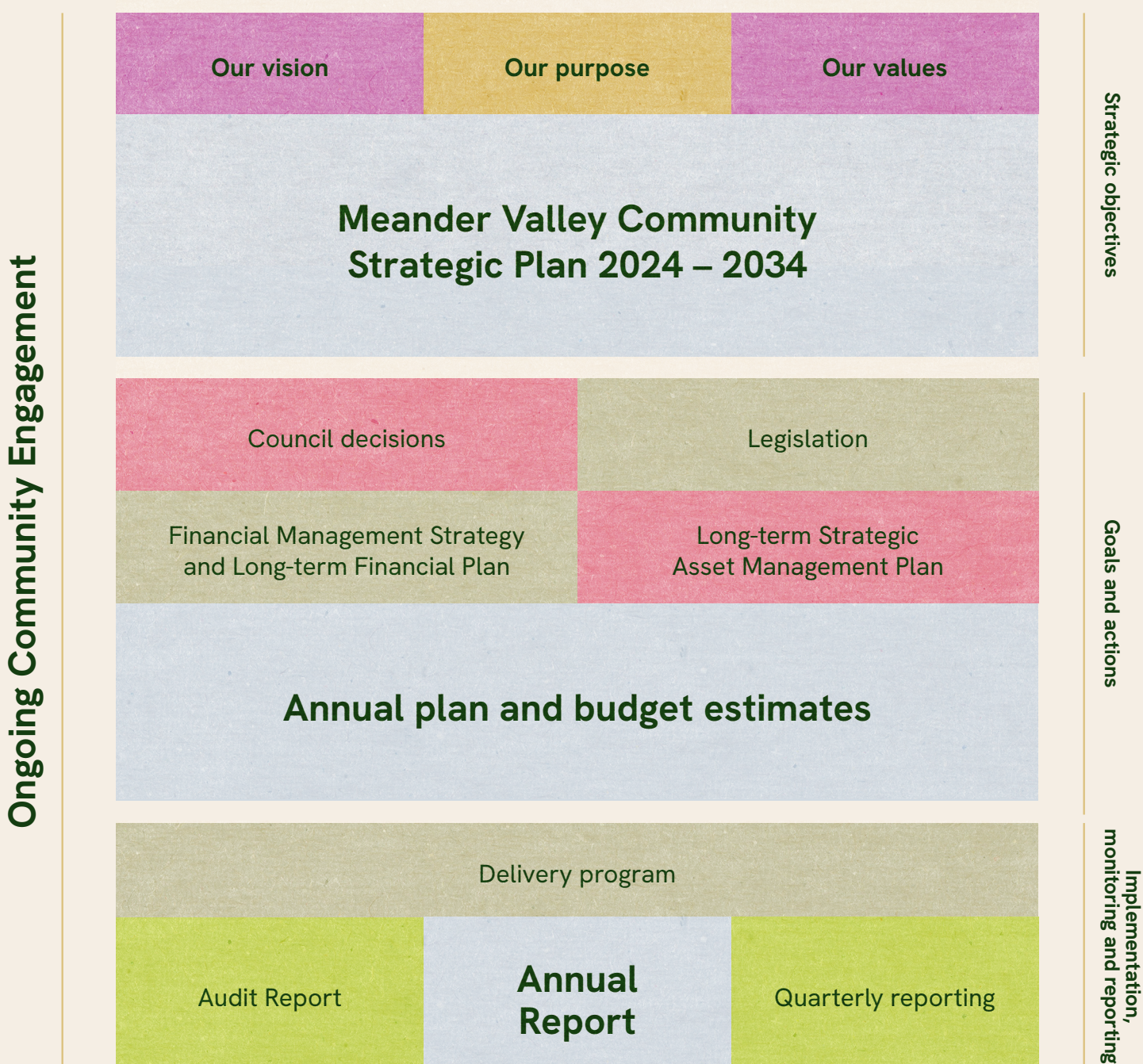
**3 MUNICIPAL  
WASTE  
FACILITIES**



**10,784  
RATEABLE  
ASSESSMENTS**

# COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The work Council does to deliver the plan is resourced through asset management plans, long term financial plans and other legislative frameworks. A guide of how our Community Strategic Plan will interact with other Council strategies is as follows:



# OUR PURPOSE

Working together to connect our diverse region, celebrate our thriving community, and welcome others to share in our abundance.

# OUR VISION

A unified region, brimming with opportunity, Meander Valley is where community, environment, and industry flourish.

- We nurture our landscape and honour our heritage, providing safe and supportive spaces for older generations and securing the future for the next.
- We come together as a community to preserve our lush environment, protect our fertile earth, promote innovative industries and produce a diverse and abundant lifestyle for all.
- We continue to grow as a region, welcoming new families, visitors and businesses into our community – all while remaining true to our roots and uplifting the local people, places and stories that have shaped Meander Valley.





# OUR COMMUNITY VALUES

The Meander Valley is made up of different towns and diverse people, but there are some key values we all share. These values underpin our strategic plan, guiding our actions and decisions as we work towards a vibrant and flourishing future.

## **Inclusive, thriving and unified.**

We welcome everyone to share in our abundance, embracing diversity, fostering belonging and strengthening connections across the region.

## **Sustainability and environmental stewardship.**

We protect and preserve our natural environment — from the winding rivers, to the Western Tiers, and the fertile ground beneath our feet. We prioritise sustainability and promote eco-friendly initiatives, so Meander Valley continues to flourish for generations to come.

## **Innovative and creative.**

We embrace the creative spirit of our community, finding innovative ideas and treading our own path forward. But we never forget where we've come from. Our urban planning and infrastructure development honours our heritage, protects our environment and improves the lives of locals.

## **Accessible and community centred.**

We cultivate an environment where everyone can thrive, by investing in robust and resilient infrastructure that enriches the lives of our community, adapts to their changing needs and makes Meander Valley more accessible for all.

## **Transparent and collaborative.**

We work together to bring our vision to life — collaborating on a future that's made by us all. We listen openly, always help each other out, and lead with honesty, transparency and accountability.

# MADE BY US ALL

Growing a vibrant and flourishing future takes many hands – from all levels of Government, through to the many individuals and groups who make up our community. We can all shape our patch of Meander Valley, and Council has three roles to play:

## **Provider**

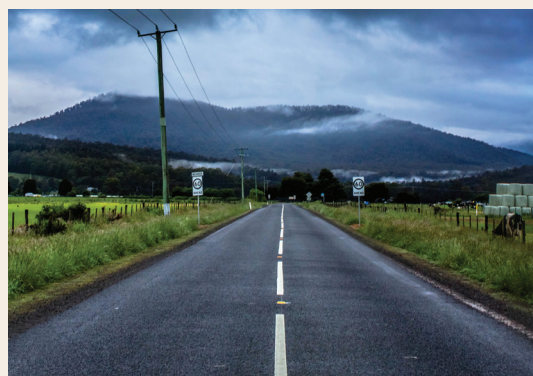
Council provides resources and plays a lead role in local services and infrastructure.

## **Facilitator**

Council works with and assists stakeholders to pursue shared matters of interest, including services.

## **Advocate**

Council advocates on behalf of the community by making representations, providing resources for services, and seeking support from those who can influence local issues.



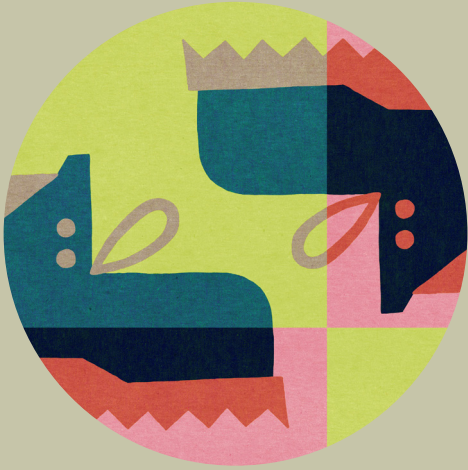
# OUR COMMUNITY STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



1. Cultivating a diverse, unified and empowered community.
2. Valuing and protecting our natural environment.
3. Creating a well-designed, sustainable built environment.
4. Investing in infrastructure that strengthens our connections.
5. Delivering responsible leadership and governance.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1.

## Cultivating a diverse, unified and empowered community.



### Description

Meander Valley thrives through connection and our community loves to find more ways to come together – across generations and throughout the region. Through community and health services, quality education, artistic and cultural activities and local sporting opportunities, we can create a vibrant social environment where everyone belongs.

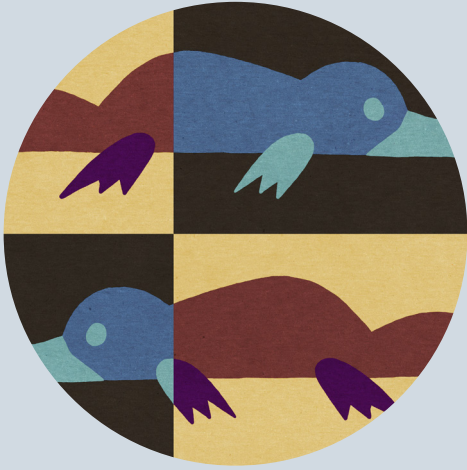
By bringing together people of all ages and backgrounds, staying true to our local values, celebrating our diverse stories, and fostering inclusivity, we can weave together a close-knit community.

### Strategic actions

- 1.1 We harness the strength of our differences through social inclusion, accessibility and encouraging a diversity of voices to shape our communities.
- 1.2 We promote community wellbeing to ensure better health outcomes through access to health, mental health, childcare and community services where and when we need them.
- 1.3 We ensure our community remains connected and informed through regular communication and by enhancing our digital literacy.
- 1.4 Our young people are supported, listened to, contribute to the community and are given opportunities to flourish within Meander Valley.
- 1.5 We identify, adapt and respond to the changing needs of our ageing population.
- 1.6 We support pathways to participate, contribute and volunteer to ensure a broad range of community activities and interests remain active locally and that our unique lifestyles remain a priority.
- 1.7 We recognise and celebrate the achievements, traditions, cultures and lifestyle of our communities by supporting and growing our range of local community events.
- 1.8 We commit to the process of storytelling and sharing that acknowledges our varied histories.
- 1.9 We build awareness, respect, and opportunities for First Nations peoples in Meander Valley and are proud to showcase its Aboriginal identity.
- 1.10 We foster community resilience through growing support networks and building the capacity to respond to change by improving emergency and natural disaster preparedness.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2.

## Valuing and protecting our natural environment.



### Description

Meander Valley flourishes on fertile ground. From the rich soil beneath our rolling fields to the beauty of the Western Tiers framing our horizon, the natural world that surrounds us plays a vital role in our lives. This patch of ours is an intricate ecosystem, home to precious native wildlife and flora. Its fertile ground sustains us, supports our community to grow and our future to flourish.

We commit to valuing, preserving and enhancing our natural resources today to protect the abundance of tomorrow. Through proactive measures and thoughtful stewardship, we can care for and strengthen our ecosystems, ensuring they remain resilient in the face of a changing climate.

By respecting and nurturing our environment we invest in biodiversity and productivity that will be there for generations to come.

### Strategic actions

- 2.1 We prepare for the emerging impacts of climate change.
- 2.2 We support community action to reduce our waste.
- 2.3 We ensure responsible use and management of our valuable waterways.
- 2.4 We embed sustainable practices into business operations and act to reduce our impacts, including our carbon footprint.
- 2.5 Our planning services ensure appropriate development which protects and enhances the natural and built environment.
- 2.6 We value our environment, recognising how it benefits us, and commit to protecting ecosystem function and balance.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3.

## Creating a well-designed, sustainable built environment.



### Description

As our community grows and evolves, we recognise how important it is for our constructed spaces to adapt to support new skills, ideas and ways of life on this land – while still preserving the history that grounds us here.

By protecting the heritage buildings that hold our stories, we reinforce the foundations of our collective identity. By prioritising recreation, parks, green spaces and playgrounds as we plan for the future, we enhance our wellbeing and capacity to thrive. And by improving our built infrastructure, we foster inclusive development improves access to safe and secure housing. Our planning is rooted in respecting and understanding to the different patches of ground that exist across our community, ensuring we grow our region in a way that's sustainable and true to our shared community values.

### Strategic actions

- 3.1 We promote increased housing options that accommodate a range of affordability.
- 3.2 We focus on the intentional planning of settlements to ensure cohesive property developments that match need and context.
- 3.3 We take action to protect and preserve our built heritage.
- 3.4 We value, maintain and plan for quality recreation places, parks, green spaces and playgrounds.
- 3.5 We prioritise maintenance, renewal and development of community facilities to be safe, functional, comfortable, energy efficient and fit for purpose.
- 3.6 We commit to maintaining, upgrading and developing critical public amenities to be safe, accessible, efficient.
- 3.7 We provide responsive planning services to the community.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4.

## Investing in infrastructure that strengthens our connections.



### Description

Our community has always found ways to come together organically – whether it’s chatting in the street, joining a local group, or meeting in our memorial halls. With thoughtful planning and investment in infrastructure, we can nurture these connections and help our community grow even stronger in the future.

We will make it safer and more accessible to move around the Meander Valley, by prioritising our roads, cycling routes and pedestrian pathways. We will also focus on creating inviting spaces for people to come together, meet, and mingle with the diverse communities across the Meander Valley.

### Strategic actions

- 4.1 We activate community gathering places for people to create and foster social networks.
- 4.2 We value and plan for recreation spaces that are accessible for all.
- 4.3 Our sports facilities are maintained and available for local clubs to promote participation.
- 4.4 We advocate for public transport services in Meander Valley that grow steadily with our population.
- 4.5 Our road network is safe, efficient and well maintained.
- 4.6 We plan and create pedestrian linkages to support safe access to key community infrastructure.
- 4.7 We manage our valued community facilities to be well maintained and ensure future needs are planned for.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5.

## Delivering responsible leadership and governance.



### Description

The future of Meander Valley is made by us all. That's why we commit to actively listening, engaging and communicating with local residents and businesses. Building collaborative, decision-making processes ensures our initiatives match the unique needs and strength of our region. By working with local businesses and industries, we can amplify their impact and grow a more resilient economy together.

The people that visit Meander Valley also help our region thrive. We want to share our abundance with the world, by promoting tourism, improving visitor services and creating events that celebrate our local identity. Together, we can help everyone feel welcome to stop by, pull up a chair and make themselves at home in Meander Valley.

### Strategic actions

- 5.1 We encourage and facilitate community participation and engagement in decision making processes.
- 5.2 We build capacity in our communities to encourage initiative, leadership and ongoing solutions.
- 5.3 We maintain strong financial sustainability, planning for current and future generations.
- 5.4 We have a representative, responsive and transparent government that meets legislative and community needs.
- 5.5 We have leadership and advocacy on local and regional issues to other levels of government on behalf of the community.
- 5.6 We recognize, support and celebrate our competitive advantages in local business, agriculture and industry.
- 5.7 We encourage visitation to the area through growing a positive reputation and putting our name on the map.
- 5.8 There are a range of employment opportunities for our residents.
- 5.9 We attract, support and retain major events, festivals and celebrations that put Meander Valley on the map.



# REPORTING OUR PROGRESS

The Strategic Plan outlines the broad strategies that will guide the work of Meander Valley Council and our community over the next 10 years.

But seeing our plan come into fruition will take time, care and constant upkeep – just like with anything you grow. That’s why we’ll be carefully measuring our progress, assessing each strategic action, checking in with our community, and reporting back on programs, projects and initiatives.

Every year, Council publishes an annual plan which outlines what we aim to deliver in the twelve-month financial year period. The plan will also report Council’s progress, enabling us to assess and adapt these plans to changing circumstances or opportunities.

Progress on specific projects and initiatives will be measured in senior management reports, delivered at monthly Council meetings. These are open to the public, with agendas and minutes available on Council’s website.

The Strategic Plan covers multiple areas of our community because it will take collaborative effort from our local clubs, groups, organisations, agencies, regional representative bodies, individuals and State and Federal Governments to help us collect data by providing the valuable feedback we need to stay on track. Council commits to the ongoing development of evaluation frameworks and looks forward to continued active engagement from our community as we work together to ensure the future of Meander Valley is made by us all.



Meander Valley Council  
Working Together

[meander.tas.gov.au](http://meander.tas.gov.au)