

# Annual Plan

## 2026-27



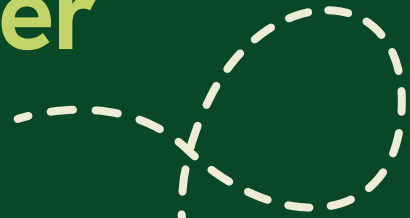
# Acknowledgment of Traditional owners

Meander Valley Council acknowledges the Pallitorre and Panninher past peoples as the traditional owners and custodians of the land we call home.

We pay respect to elders, past, present and future.

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# This is Meander Valley



3,327

Square  
Kilometres  
of Land  
Area



21,579

Residents



9

Elected  
Members

6.67M\*



Containers recycled through the  
Recycle Rewards program FY26

\*Estimated using data available at time of writing



110,000

Attendees at Council  
Sports Grounds & Venues



1,786

Local  
Businesses



193

Bridges



12

Public  
Halls



7

Bike &  
Skate Parks



8

Sporting  
Grounds

822

Kilometres  
of Road  
Networks



38

Playgrounds &  
Fitness Stations



2

Municipal  
Swimming Pools



2

Municipal  
Waste  
Facilities



59

Parks &  
Reserves

# Meander Valley

From productive farmland to dramatic high country, and from spirited townships to close-knit rural communities, Meander Valley is a place where enterprise, creativity, and care for the environment come together.

Looking ahead to 2026-27, this Annual Plan sets out Council's commitment to supporting a connected, resilient and prosperous community.

We are committed to genuine engagement that informs and guides decision-making, ensuring that a broad range of voices helps shape the future direction of Meander Valley.

Continued investment in infrastructure—particularly our road network—will improve accessibility and safety, helping residents, businesses and visitors move with greater ease across the municipality.

Equally important is our continued focus on sound financial management. Council remains dedicated to making considered, responsible decisions that maintain long-term sustainability while delivering reliable and valued services.

# Your community, your council

Meander Valley Councillors play a key role in developing the Annual Plan, working with Council officers to set priorities and shape a program of work that serves the community.



Mayor  
Wayne Johnston



Deputy Mayor  
Stephanie Cameron



Councillor  
Christine Cronshaw



Councillor  
Ben Dudman



Councillor  
Kevin House



Councillor  
Anne-Marie Loader



Councillor  
Daniel Smedley



Councillor  
John Temple



Councillor  
Rodney Synfield

# About our Annual Plan

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that Council develops an Annual Plan. We treat that responsibility with the seriousness it deserves. This Annual Plan sets out exactly what we intend to deliver in the 2026-27 financial year—covering everything from critical infrastructure projects to the everyday services that keep our community thriving. It's a practical blueprint, informed by our Community Strategic Plan 2024-2034, Council decisions, Council's budget and long-term financial plans, Tasmania's local government legislative framework, and other strategic priorities. These elements work in harmony to ensure that everything we do is aligned with your needs, your values, and the long-term vision we're building together.



# Guide to reading the Annual Plan

By following this guide, you can understand how our activities support our strategic goals and track Council's progress throughout the year. The tables on the following pages provide a clear breakdown of our ongoing tasks and special projects, showing how each align with our long-term objectives.

You'll see the specific goals we're targeting, the timing of each activity, and how we measure success. This transparency allows you to stay informed about our efforts and how we are working to achieve the community's vision as outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan 2024-2034.

The following pages use tables to outline our operational program for 2026-27, divided into 'core program activities' and 'annual projects'.

## Core Program Activities

The ongoing tasks essential for Council's successful operation each year.

## Annual Projects

Are specific initiatives planned for 2026-27 aimed at achieving particular outcomes or improvements. We provide progress reports to Council each quarter and at year's end, with additional informal updates as needed.

## Understanding and Reading the Tables

**Link Column** - This column on the left of each table shows how each activity aligns with the Five Future Directions in our Community Strategic Plan.

**Activity Timing** - This column indicates the quarter when the activity is expected to occur. Quarter 1 is from July to September, aligning with the start of the financial year.

Here's an example of a table from our Annual Plan, along with explanations for each column header to help you understand the information presented:

Link	Activity	Department Lead		
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>				
1.3	Provide accessible first point of contact for community enquiries via the Council's Customer Service Centre, website and telephone service channels	Corporate Services		

Link	Activity	Measure	Department Lead	Activity Timing
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
2.4, 5.3	Rezoning, servicing and divestment of select Council's properties in accordance with Council's decision 268/2022	Properties sold	Works	3,4

Link indicates which Future Directions the activity aligns with.

Activity describes the project, program and work actions.

Measure describes how we will assess the results of the activity.

Department Lead indicates who is responsible for delivery of the activity.

Activity Timing indicates the quarter of the year we'll report on our progress.

'Link' refers to our Five Future Directions:

- 1 Cultivating a diverse, cohesive 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.

# Annual Plan Targets

## Supporting our customers

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
1.3	Provide accessible first point of contact for community enquiries via the Council's Customer Service Centre, website and telephone service channels	Corporate Services
5.3	Manage dog registrations, renewals and processing associated payments	Corporate Services
5.3	Process rates, pension applications, notice of sale updates, supplementary valuations and financial hardship applications	Corporate Services
5.4	Maintain the Council's cemetery records in accordance with the <i>Burial and Cremation Act 2019</i> (including online information for the Council's cemetery facilities)	Corporate Services
5.4	Respond to applications for disclosure of information under the <i>Right to Information Act 2009</i>	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.7, 1.8, 5.7, 5.9	Operate tourism and visitor information services through the Meander Valley Visitor Centre	Governance & Community Wellbeing

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
2.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.7	Provide planning, building and plumbing advice in response to customer requests	Development & Regulatory Services
5.4	Process applications for the Council's Land Information Certificates (Section 337 Certificate)	Development & Regulatory Services
5.3	Manage the invoicing and payment processing of fees and charges for the Council and relevant State Government charges	Corporate Services
4.2, 4.3	Support billing and payment for use of the Council's sports grounds and reserves	Infrastructure
5.4	Assist Councillors to respond to customer queries	All

# Managing our asset portfolio

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
3.5, 3.6	Manage the Council's asset portfolio to ensure optimal value and least cost; maintain Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) and Asset Management Plans	Infrastructure
3.5, 3.6	Review and update asbestos register for the Council's building facilities	Infrastructure
3.5, 4.3	Manage legal agreements for the Council owned facilities and implement a program of lease renewal	Infrastructure
3.5, 3.6	Develop and maintain a public building renewal policy, considering asset condition, utilisation of rates, renewal and maintenance costs and service options	Infrastructure
4.5	Deliver the bridge inspection and maintenance program	Infrastructure
4.5, 4.6	Continue to provide a safe road, bridge and stormwater network through the provision of maintenance renewal and upgrade of Infrastructure and assets.	Infrastructure/Works
5.3	Provide cost effective and sustainable fleet management that meets the operational needs of the organisation	Corporate Services
5.3	Review and assess plant replacement needs, facilitate the replacement of heavy, light and small plant including purchase and disposal	Works
3.5, 3.6, 4.7	Update asset information and asset revaluation in line with the revaluation cycle	Infrastructure
3.5, 3.6, 4.5, 4.6	Apply for and administer State and Federal Grant Funding requests and documentation for approved projects	Infrastructure

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
2.4, 5.3	Rezoning, servicing and divestment of select Council's properties in accordance with Council's decision 268/2022.	Properties sold	Works	1,2,3,4
2.4, 5.3, 5.8	Decommission previous Westbury and Deloraine Depots and commence preparation of the sites for redevelopment.	Percentage complete	Works	1,2,3,4
1.2, 2.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.7, 4.2, 5.8	Undertake actions that support the urban growth area developments in Prospect Vale and Blackstone Heights.	Engagements with stakeholders	Infrastructure/ Development & Regulatory Services	1,2,3,4

# Investing in community facilities & infrastructure

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
2.4, 5.3, 5.8	Operate the Council's Westbury and Prospect Vale Works depots and material storage areas	Works
2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 3.4, 4.2	Maintain Westbury Town Common in line with Natural, Resources and Environment (NRE) Tasmania Management Plan	Works
4.7	Manage the Customer Service Centre and administration buildings in line with facility management plans	Infrastructure
4.7	Deliver planned and reactive maintenance of community facilities (buildings) to ensure safe, well used facilities	Infrastructure
4.5, 4.6	Deliver operational programs to maintain road related assets	Works
2.2, 3.6, 4.7	Deliver operational programs to maintain urban streetscapes, public amenities and on-street waste collection	Works
4.3	Manage the Deloraine swimming pool to ensure availability safety and compliance standards	Infrastructure
4.3	Facilitate safety standard compliance and continuing management by the community of the Caveside Pool	Infrastructure
4.7	Oversight of maintenance and safety at Deloraine and Districts Folk Museum	Infrastructure

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
4.7	Manage contracts and arrangements for cleaning buildings	Infrastructure
5.5	Complete and submit State and Federal grant funding applications as they arise to support facilities	Infrastructure

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
3.5, 3.6, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7	Plan and deliver projects in line with the approved Capital Works Programs.	Percentage complete	Works/ Infrastructure	1,2,3,4
3.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.3, 4.7	Complete the Westbury Sports Centre and Recreation Precinct Masterplan to determine future levels of investment proposed for the site.	Masterplan completed	Infrastructure	1,2
3.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.3	Complete detailed design documentation and Tender package for the Deloraine Football Club Redevelopment.	Percentage completed	Infrastructure	2,3
3.5, 3.6	Redevelop the children's play area at the Deloraine Pool.	Project elements completed	Infrastructure	3,4

# Making a positive contribution to community wellbeing

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
1.6, 1.7, 1.10, 1.11, 5.9	Promote and facilitate activities and events that connect community and develop community capacity	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.6, 1.7, 1.11, 5.2	Provide advice and deliver support for community engagement activities on the Council's projects	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.6, 1.7, 4.1, 5.2, 5.6, 5.9	Promote, administer and distribute the Council's Community Grants each quarter	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.6	Manage Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with the Deloraine and Westbury Community Cars and support initiatives for increasing the skill of drivers	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.6, 1.7, 1.11, 4.1, 5.9	Process applications for Place of Assembly Licences for large events	Development & Regulatory Services
1.7	Promote and deliver the annual Australia Day Awards (all categories)	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.6, 5.1, 5.6, 5.7	Deliver quarterly Citizenship Ceremonies	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.6, 1.7, 5.9	Provide in-kind support to approved community events	Works

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
1.3	Coordinate quarterly community forums, in various Meander Valley townships, to provide engagement opportunities for community members with elected members and council officers.	Forums completed	Governance & Community Wellbeing	2,3,4

# Supporting economic growth, prosperity & the environment

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
5.3, 5.5, 5.7	Fund and partner in regional collaboration through the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.5, 1.10, 1.11, 2.3, 2.5, 3.2, 3.7, 4.4, 5.3, 5.5, 5.7	Engage with regional organisations Visit Northern Tasmania to progress regional development activities	Governance & Community Wellbeing
2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6	Support the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce	Governance & Community Wellbeing
2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6	Fund, support and partner with the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Program (NRM North)	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.10, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 5.5	Fund, support and partner with the Northern Tasmanian Alliance of Resilient Councils (NTARC)	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.1, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 4.1	Support volunteers at the Deloraine and Districts Folk Museum to deliver new exhibits to highlight the history of the Meander Valley	Governance & Community Wellbeing
2.6	Manage weeds on roadside and land owned by the Council	Works
2.6	Support management of stray cats by contributing funds to the regional Northern Cat Management Facility	Development & Regulatory Services

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
2.4	Development of Climate Change strategies, in conjunction with LGAT, State Government and Federal Government initiatives.	Climate Change initiatives adopted.	Governance & Community Wellbeing	2,3,4

# Supporting community health outcomes, resilience, & emergency management responses

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
1.3, 2.3, 2.6, 3.6, 4.1, 5.7	Manage public health risk through monitoring and sampling of recreational water and public pools and spas	Development & Regulatory Services
5.7, 5.9	Promote safe food practices including registrations, education, monitoring, inspections and compliance in accordance with the <i>Food Act 2003</i>	Development & Regulatory Services
1.2, 1.5	Provide a school-based immunisation program as part of the National Immunisation Program	Development & Regulatory Services
1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.10,	Monitor Public Health activities through licencing, registration and inspection of public health risk activities and regulated systems	Development & Regulatory Services
2.3, 2.6, 5.4, 5.9	Ensure environmental health monitoring is compliant and incidents effectively managed	Development & Regulatory Services
1.10, 2.1, 2.4,	Complete annual fire abatement inspections and investigate complaints	Development & Regulatory Services
2.1, 3.4, 4.2, 4.5	Deliver fuel reduction programs on land owned by the Council, including roadsides	Works
1.10	Support planning and responses under the Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA)	Infrastructure
1.10	Support Meander Valley SES units through ongoing management of the Memorandum of Understanding	Infrastructure

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
1.10	Maintain and implement the Municipal Emergency Management Plan	Infrastructure
1.10	Support Municipal Emergency Management and Social Recovery Committee	Infrastructure

# Managing planning, development & regulation

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
3.7	Provide strategic and statutory land use planning advice for planning proposals	Development & Regulatory Services
3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.7	Process applications for amendment to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Meander Valley within statutory time frames	Development & Regulatory Services
3.1, 3.2, 3.7	Process planning, building and plumbing applications within statutory time frames	Development & Regulatory Services
3.7	Manage any planning appeals through Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal	Development & Regulatory Services
3.7	Process applications for Certificate of Approval for Strata and Final Plan of Subdivisions	Development & Regulatory Services
2.3, 2.6, 4.2, 4.5, 5.7	Provide animal management and responsible pet ownership services (enforcement and education)	Development & Regulatory Services
2.6, 4.2, 4.6	Administer dog registration compliance in line with the <i>Dog Control Act 2000</i>	Development & Regulatory Services
2.3, 2.6, 4.2, 4.5, 5.7, 4.6	Respond to reports of dogs and livestock at large in a timely manner	Development & Regulatory Services
2.6, 4.2	Investigate and take appropriate actions on animal control matters in accordance with the <i>Dog Control Act 2000</i>	Development & Regulatory Services

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
4.2, 4.6, 5.7	Inspect and monitor compliance with Dangerous Dog Declarations	Development & Regulatory Services
1.2, 2.5, 3.2, 3.3, 3.7, 5.4, 5.7	Investigate identified non-compliance against the <i>Building Act 2016</i> and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Meander Valley	Development & Regulatory Services
2.3, 2.6, 5.4, 5.7	Provide environmental health related assessment of development applications	Development & Regulatory Services
5.4	Complete Federal and State Government Monthly Reporting for building activities	Development & Regulatory Services
2.1, 4.5, 4.6, 5.3	Provide road, stormwater and other Infrastructure assessment of development applications	Infrastructure

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
1.2, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1, 5.5	Actively participate in regional planning initiatives including including the implementation of the Northern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy.	Contribution to regional planning activities	Development & Regulatory Services	1,2,3,4
2.5, 2.6, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 4.6, 5.1, 5.4, 5.7	Development of Carrick Character Precinct – Specific Area Plan. Scheme amendment application submitted to Tasmanian Planning Commission.	Application Submitted	Development & Regulatory Services	1,2
2.5, 2.6, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 4.6, 5.1, 5.4, 5.7	Development of Westbury Village Green Character Precinct – Specific Area Plan. Scheme amendment application submitted to Tasmanian Planning Commission.	Application submitted	Development & Regulatory Services	1,2
2.5, 2.6, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 4.6, 5.1, 5.4, 5.7	Commence background investigations for the Development of a Structure Plan for Westbury.	Supporting reports completed	Development & Regulatory Services	1,2,3,4
3.7, 5.1, 5.5	Review of Meander Valley Council Local Provisions Schedule – Statutory requirement under section 350 <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i> .	Review completed	Development & Regulatory Services	1,2,3
5.4	Develop and implement a Compliance Policy	Policy complete and adopted by Council	Development & Regulatory Services	1,2
5.4	Develop and implement a Strata Policy	Policy complete and adopted by Council	Development & Regulatory Services	1,2



# Provide contemporary waste collection, disposal & recycling services, and infrastructure

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
2.2, 2.4	Manage waste facility management and kerbside bin collection service contracts	Infrastructure
2.2, 2.4	Collaborate with Circular North Waste Management Group for regional priorities	Infrastructure
2.2, 2.4	Deliver the annual Hard Waste Collection	Infrastructure
2.6	Maintain compliance with Environmental Protection Notice for landfill cells	Infrastructure

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
2.4, 2.6	Complete rehabilitation Works for the Cluan landfill site.	Rehabilitation commenced	Infrastructure	1,2,3
2.2	Investigate the expansion of kerbside bin collection services where services are currently not offered.	Investigations completed	Infrastructure	1,2
2.2	Conduct surveys and investigate the expansion of kerbside FOGO collection in Deloraine.	Investigations completed	Infrastructure	3,4
2.2, 2.4	Complete construction of the waste transfer station at the Deloraine waste facility.	Percentage completed	Infrastructure	1,2
2.2, 2.4	Review arrangements for the Mole Creek Waste Transfer Station.	Review Completed	Infrastructure	2,3

# Provide a robust, reliable, secure & available ICT environment

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
5.3	Manage review and schedule changeover of corporate hardware requirements, implement modern, resilient platforms and software solutions	Corporate Services
5.3	Define and meet performance and availability performance indicators for ICT systems	Corporate Services
5.3	Provide helpdesk services for efficient management of incidents and requests	Corporate Services
5.3	Procure, administer, maintain and support corporate hardware (PC and laptops)	Corporate Services
5.3	Manage ancillary communications including printing, email and internet services and contracts related to support contractors	Corporate Services
5.3	Plan and provision for business continuity of ICT Services in line with the Risk Appetite Statement, undertake annual review or when a material change to ICT hardware or systems is made	Corporate Services
5.3	Manage ongoing network storage capacity	Corporate Services
5.3	Implement network security improvements and protections as required	Corporate Services

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
5.3	Finalise implementation of <i>SharePoint</i> and <i>AvePoint</i> and Records Management.	Products implemented	Corporate Services	1,2
5.3	Manage implementation of Phase 1 TechnologyOne program (Core Financials and Human Resources).	Module live	Corporate Services	1,2,3,4
5.3	Planning for Phase 2 TechnologyOne implementation (Property & Ratings).	Rollout plans agreed	Corporate Services	3,4
5.3	Deliver training to support staff in the use of new technologies.	Training delivered	Corporate Services	1,2,3,4

# Deliver good governance & resilience through sound corporate & financial management

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
5.3	Deliver the Annual Budget Estimates and Long-Term Financial Plan	Corporate Services
2.6	Maintain planning and environmental approvals and compliance for existing landfill operations	Infrastructure
2.6	Achieve necessary EPA approvals and manage landfill cell at Deloraine in accordance with the approvals to provide for continuing operation compliance with EPA	Infrastructure
5.4	Maintenance of legislation-based delegations to the Council's Officers	Governance & Community Wellbeing
5.1, 5.4	Provide monthly briefing reports to Council	Governance & Community Wellbeing
5.3	Keep the Council's Long Term Financial Plan and associated financial estimates current	Corporate Services
5.3	Review the strategic and operational risk registers and implement mitigation actions considering Risk Appetite Statement	Corporate Services
5.3	Manage accounts payable and receivable	Corporate Services
5.3	Review financial policies and procedures when due or as required	Corporate Services

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
5.3	Provision of relevant, timely and accurate financial information for corporate and audit reporting	Corporate Services
5.3	Provide ongoing staff training for budgeting processes and monitoring	Corporate Services
5.4	Manage the Council's rates; issue section 132 certificates (property rates), manage revenue and debtors' functions	Corporate Services
5.4	Complete Consolidation Data Collection Sheets for State Government	Corporate Services
5.4	Manage taxation compliance (submit BAS, FBT and payroll tax returns within legislative timeframes)	Corporate Services
5.4	Arrange annual insurance renewals and reconciliation of control accounts	Corporate Services
5.4	Maintain records management processes in line with requirements of the <i>Archives Act 1993</i> , including annual archive disposal	Corporate Services
5.3	Maintain records management system and deliver training to ensure compliance with policies	Corporate Services
5.4	Coordinate external audit programs	Corporate Services
5.3	Facilitate reporting of progress of audit recommendations and tasks	Corporate Services
5.3	Review controls for addressing fraud and corruption risk and deliver awareness training	Corporate Services

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
5.1, 5.4	Coordinate updating of the Council's policies and procedures in accordance with the review schedule	Governance & Community Wellbeing
5.4	Review and manage the Council's gifts and benefit register	Governance & Community Wellbeing

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
5.1	Complete upgrades to the Westbury Town Hall and commence use as the Council Chambers.	First Council Meeting held	Governance & Community Wellbeing	3,4
5.4	Councillors attend Council Meetings and Workshops in order to contribute to Policy and Strategy development and adoption.	Meeting attendance percentage	Governance & Community Wellbeing	1,2,3,4
5.4	Provide information to the community that creates awareness of the Local Government Elections due in October.	Awareness activities completed	Governance & Community Wellbeing	1,2
5.4	Coordinate new Councillor Induction program to educate and provide understanding to those elected in October.	Councillor induction activities completed	Governance & Community Wellbeing	2,3
5.3	Review and updated 2028 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan for approval by Council.	Documents approved	Corporate Services	4

# Managing our supply chain to procure goods & services

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
5.4, 5.6	Monitor implementation of audits and compliance with policy and procedures to minimise supply procurement and contract management risks and costs	Corporate Services
5.4, 5.6	Maintain a contractor induction and verification of requirements regime in line with policy and processes	Corporate Services

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
5.2	Explore further opportunities for shared services and/or resource sharing opportunities with other Tasmanian Councils.	Shared services investigated	Governance & Community Wellbeing	1,2,3,4

# Informing & engaging our community

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
1.3, 4.1, 5.1, 5.4, 5.9	Provide communication services, production of media and project communication material, including supporting unplanned road closures, service disruptions, etc.	Governance & Community Wellbeing
2.2, 5.3	Production of budget related collateral including rate notice brochure and waste vouchers	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.3, 4.1, 5.1, 5.4, 5.9	Produce information to support special projects and engagement activities as requested (briefing notes, advertising, project collateral and promotional material)	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.3, 1.6, 1.8, 5.1, 5.4	Administer and coordinate all the Council's social media accounts	Governance & Community Wellbeing
5.4	Complete annual content audit of website information, update as required	ALL
5.4, 5.5	Provide strategic communication, media and issues management responses to the Mayor, Councillors and General Manager	Governance & Community Wellbeing
5.4	Develop and maintain the Council's online presence including website	Governance & Community Wellbeing
5.4	Deliver design and layout for corporate documents	Governance & Community Wellbeing
1.3, 1.6, 3.7, 5.1, 5.4	Deliver regular updates of the Council to the community to keep them informed on operations	Governance & Community Wellbeing

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
5.7	Complete signage upgrades and layout improvements to changeover the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre to the Meander Valley Visitor Centre.	Building changes applied	Governance & Community Wellbeing	1,2,3,4
5.7	Implement changes to signage to reflect the Meander Valley place brand.	Instances of place brand utilised	Governance & Community Wellbeing	1,2,3,4
5.7, 5.1	Redevelop the Visitor Centre website to a contemporary and customer friendly offering.	New website upgrade commenced	Governance & Community Wellbeing	1,2,3,4

# Demonstrating a commitment to our people

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
5.3	Maintain employee related records, training and reporting systems	Corporate Services
5.3	Maintain and administer the employee Code of Conduct Policy	Corporate Services
5.3	Maintain a contemporary approach to job design and currency of position descriptions	Corporate Services
5.3	Support recruitment and selection	Corporate Services
5.3	Manage and investigate workplace complaints and grievances	Corporate Services
5.3	Promote and administer the Council's Employee Assistance Program	Corporate Services
5.3	Provide employee relations support and advice	Corporate Services
5.3	Undertake annual and periodic performance and development reviews in line with approved processes	Corporate Services
5.3	Provide advice on employee learning and development opportunities	Corporate Services
5.3	Coordinate the annual staff performance review process	Corporate Services

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
5.4	Coordinate register of mandatory training; including tickets, licenses and permits	Corporate Services
5.4	Process worker's compensation claims	Corporate Services
5.3	Coordinate the delivery of Code of Conduct Policy awareness to all the Council's employees	Corporate Services
5.3	Maintain professional advisory services for employee relations (legal and HR)	Corporate Services

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
5.4	Complete review and update human resource management policies and deliver employee training to align with contemporary practices and industrial law.	Policies reviewed and training completed	Corporate Services	1,2
5.3	Undertake employee culture survey and revise culture action plan.	Survey completed	Corporate Services	2,4

# Ensuring a safe and healthy workplace

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Department Lead
<b>CORE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>		
5.5	Develop and implement an enhanced WH&S system so that the work environment remains healthy and safe	Corporate Services
5.5	Coordinate safety inspections and finalisation of corrective actions to minimise the risk of workplace injury or loss	Corporate Services
5.5	Provide information, training and supervision to ensure people take reasonable care for their own health and safety along with that of others	Corporate Services
5.5	Monitor third party suppliers to ensure that the supply of goods and services comply with all WH&S requirements	Corporate Services
5.5	Promote the Risk and WH&S Committee as a consultative forum for employees to have input into matters that impact upon their work health and safety	Corporate Services
5.5	Review, investigate and report incidents and near misses, recommend controls and prevention strategies	Corporate Services
5.5	Delivery of workplace WH&S wellness initiatives to encourage our people to maintain a physically and psychologically healthy lifestyle	Corporate Services
5.5	Provide regular reporting of WH&S incidents and performance to the Executive Management Team	Corporate Services
5.5	Maintain a fair and equitable workers' compensation and claims management process to provide care and rehabilitation to minimise the costs and loss for injured employees and the Council	Corporate Services

Strategic Plan Ref.	Activity Description	Annual Activity Measurement	Department Lead	Quarter Delivered
<b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>				
5.5	Implement an organisation wide engagement on WHS including sharing incident stories and promoting the reporting of hazards, incidents and near misses.	WHS sharing opportunities delivered	Corporate Services	1,2,3,4
1.4, 1.6	Embed the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework, as required by the Tasmanian Government's <i>Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023</i> .	Changes applied in operational activities"	Governance & Community Wellbeing	2,3
2.4	Progressive implementation of WHS software, digitisation of employee templates and undertake training for employees.	Software opportunities implemented	Corporate Services	1,2,3,4

# Budget summary 2026-27

## Financial Position

The 2026-27 budget includes an underlying operating deficit of \$794,800. This position is primarily influenced by the inclusion of one-off projects and initiatives.

After adjusting for these one-off items, the underlying operating position is an estimated surplus of \$156,100. This indicates that Council's ongoing operations remain broadly sustainable, with the LTFP projecting a return to consistent operating surpluses over time.

The current financial year is forecast to deliver an operating surplus of \$236,700, after incorporating an increased provision for landfill rehabilitation at Cluan. This represents a favourable variance to the adopted budget. The improved result is primarily driven by lower than anticipated staffing costs and the deferral of several significant one-off projects.

## Rates and Revenue

A general rate increase of 4.9% is proposed for the 2026-27 year.

This increase is intended to:

- Maintain service delivery in line with community expectations
- Respond to increases in the cost of providing services
- Support investment in essential infrastructure

The increase represents an average across all properties. The actual impact for individual ratepayers will vary due to updated property valuations and the characteristics of each property.

## Property Valuations

Updated property valuations have been applied across the municipality, resulting in a redistribution of rates between property types.

Some property classes, particularly residential, commercial and industrial, have experienced stronger valuation growth than others. As a result, there will be variations in how the average rate increase is experienced across the community.

To reduce the immediate impact of these changes, Council has elected to implement the valuation adjustments over a two-year period.

## Waste Management Services

Waste management services continue to move toward a cost recovery approach, ensuring that costs are allocated more directly to the services provided.

Key influences on costs for 2026-27 include:

- Increases in the State Government Waste Levy
- Contract and fuel-related cost increases
- Service changes, including expansion of FOGO services

For 2026-27:

- The fixed waste charge is proposed to increase to \$193 per property
- Kerbside collection charges will increase to reflect the cost of providing services

### **Long-Term Financial Outlook**

The Long-Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 indicates that Council's financial position remains sustainable over the long term, subject to ongoing monitoring and annual review.

The LTFP highlights:

- The importance of maintaining operating balance over time
- The impact of capital investment on future operating costs
- The reliance on external funding sources such as grants, distributions and interest income

Modest future rate increases above inflation are included in the plan to support financial sustainability and ensure that current service levels can be maintained without placing undue pressure on future generations.

# Where is council's budget spent?

Road & Bridge Management	31.5%	\$9,690,400
Street Lighting	1.1%	\$331,200
Household Waste	19.5%	\$6,012,200
Storm Water Management	2.7%	\$833,100
Planning & Building Services	9.9%	\$3,040,700
Other Community, Health & Welfare	18.6%	\$5,734,200
Parks, Sport, & Recreation Grounds	13.3%	\$4,099,000
Other Recreation & Culture	3.5%	\$1,067,200
	Total	\$30,808,000

# Summary of budget estimates

<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>	Budget   2025-26	Actual   2025-26	Budget   2026-27
Rate Revenue	\$19,762,200	\$19,879,100	\$21,027,900
Fees & User Charges	\$1,789,100	\$1,829,900	\$2,070,700
Contributions	\$225,500	\$211,200	\$205,500
Interest	\$1,120,200	\$1,290,600	\$1,330,800
Grants & Subsidies	\$6,196,200	\$6,208,500	\$5,987,500
Other Revenue	\$801,300	\$921,600	\$954,000
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 29,894,500</b>	<b>\$30,340,900</b>	<b>\$31,576,400</b>

<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	Budget   2025-26	Forecast   2025-26	Budget   2026-27
Employee Costs	\$10,799,600	\$9,945,550	\$11,340,900
Materials & Contracts	\$10,723,600	\$10,475,250	\$12,046,100
Finance Costs	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Depreciation & Amortisation	\$6,867,400	\$6,870,400	\$7,006,900
State Fire Levy	\$1,486,500	\$1,505,000	\$1,563,200
Other Expenses	\$337,000	\$1,258,000	\$364,100
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>\$30,264,100</b>	<b>\$30,104,200</b>	<b>\$32,371,200</b>
<b>Underlying Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$369,600)</b>	<b>\$236,700</b>	<b>(\$794,800)</b>

# Summary of budget estimates (cont.)

<b>CAPITAL REVENUE</b>	Budget   2025-26	Forecast   2025-26	Budget   2026-27
Capital Revenue	\$38,968,900	\$36,821,000	\$39,611,000
Capital Expenditure	\$30,264,100	\$30,104,200	\$32,371,200
Opening Cash and Investment Balance	\$24,577,100	\$22,399,815	\$20,706,915
Closing Cash and Investment Balance	\$19,510,000	\$20,706,915	\$15,787,415

# Public health goals & objectives

Council's Environmental Health Officers are responsible for ensuring the statutory obligations in relation to public and environmental health are met. This includes requirements under the *Building Act 2016*, *Burial and Cremation Act 2019*, *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*, *Food Act 2003*, *Local Government Act 1993* and *Public Health Act 1997*.

As part of Meander Valley Council's 2026-27 public health goals and objectives, the Environmental Health Officers will seek to:

- Ensure safe food practices at food businesses and events, and provide food handler training for community groups when requested
- Promptly investigate public and environmental health complaints
- Respond to notifiable disease notifications and investigations
- Continue to actively participate and contribute to policy and legislative development at a regional and state level to further the public and environmental health of our community
- Coordinate a school-based immunisation program in accordance with the National Immunisation Program and directives from the Department of Health
- License and undertake routine inspections of public health risk activities, water carriers and public events
- Continue to actively participate in the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers program (TEER) and the River Health Action Plan (RHAP)
- Coordinate a monitoring program of public recreational waters and public pools and spas to ensure water quality is suitable for swimming



**Meander  
Valley  
Council**