

TERM REPORT

2022 - 2026



Meander
Valley
Council



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Meander Valley Council acknowledges the Pallitore and Panninher peoples as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which our Council gathers. We pay respect to elders past and present, and extended those respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Alum Cliffs.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It has been a great privilege to serve as Mayor of Meander Valley Council over the past four years. This term has been defined by strong community spirit, resilience in the face of challenges, and a shared determination to build a prosperous and sustainable future for our beautiful valley.

Throughout this period, Council has worked closely with residents, community groups, and other levels of government to deliver meaningful outcomes that support liveability for our area. While the work of local government is often complex, our focus has remained clear: to listen, to lead responsibly, and to make decisions that reflect the long term interests of the Meander Valley community.

As this term of office draws to a close, I am proud to reflect on what we have achieved together and grateful for the dedication of my fellow Councillors, our staff and the many community members who contribute their time, ideas and passion to making Meander Valley the special place it is.

Mayor, Wayne Johnston

OUR AGREED BEHAVIOURS

1.

We work as a team, value each other's contribution and are accountable for our work.

2.

We support each other's roles to deliver the best outcomes for our customers and community.

3.

We are supported, trusted and empowered to do our work.

4.

We value open and transparent communication to keep each other well informed.

5.

We operate in an environment where people feel connected.

OUR COMMUNITY

A place for nature; a place for nurture; a place for families, seeds, and ideas to grow; a place where down-to-earth doers and makers reach for the sky; a place of stunning vistas, fertile pastures, and awe-inspiring peaks.

In our towns, hard work and warm welcomes go hand in hand. From our rich cultural heritage to our culinary delights, there are stories to tell and experiences to share. As we reflect on the past four years, we are proud of our achievements and feel honoured to have served.

Made by Meander Valley Branding at the Tasmanian Heirloom Festival



WE WORKED WITH THE COMMUNITY AND, IN 2024, DELIVERED NEW COMMUNITY STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR MEANDER VALLEY. THESE ARE:



Cultivating a diverse, unified, and empowered community.



Valuing and protecting our natural environment.



Investing in infrastructure that strengthens connection.



Creating a well-designed, sustainable built environment.



Delivering responsible leadership and governance.

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES



Mayor
WAYNE JOHNSTON



Deputy Mayor
STEPHANIE CAMERON



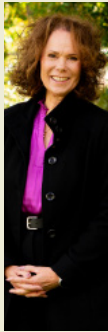
Councillor
CHRISTINE CRONSHAW



Councillor
BEN DUDMAN



Councillor
KEVIN HOUSE



Councillor
ANNE-MARIE LOADER



Councillor
DANIEL SMEDLEY



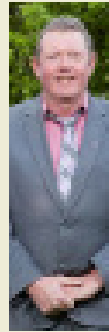
Councillor
RODNEY SYNFIELD



Councillor
JOHN TEMPLE



Councillor
DEBORAH WHITE



Councillor
MICHAEL KELLY



Councillor
LOCHIE DORNAUF



Councillor
BARRY LEE



View of Quamby Bluff from Projection Bluff.

OUR TERM ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the course of this four-year term, Meander Valley Council has remained focused on delivering meaningful, long-term outcomes, which support the needs of our community, while planning responsibly for the future. Guided by a renewed community strategic plan, which was created with community input, Council has worked to balance growth, service delivery and environmental stewardship across the municipality.

This section highlights key achievements from our four-year term of office, reflecting the breadth of Council's responsibilities and the progress made across several

critical areas. From setting a strong foundation through strategic planning, to delivering essential infrastructure and capital works, preparing for future development, and improving waste management services, these achievements demonstrate Council's ongoing commitment to building a resilient, liveable and sustainable Meander Valley.

The outcomes outlined are the result of collaboration between Councillors, Council staff, community members and partner organisations, and represent important steps towards meeting both current needs and long-term aspirations for the municipality.

- In 2023, reforms to Local Government were proposed by the Tasmanian Government. We surveyed and met with our community members, listening to what they valued about our Council area. On behalf of our residents, we formed a position and provided this to the Government.
- During 2023 and 2024, we worked with the community to create the Meander Valley Community Strategic Plan 2024 - 2034. This plan was developed through a collaborative process involving extensive community engagement and input from key stakeholders. We worked with the community to better understand their challenges, priorities and plans for Meander Valley's future, and how we can best work together and communicate as we bring them to fruition.
- We reviewed the volunteer awards event, which occurs in January each year. In 2025, we moved the event outdoors to the Westbury Village Green and increased the level of Council support.

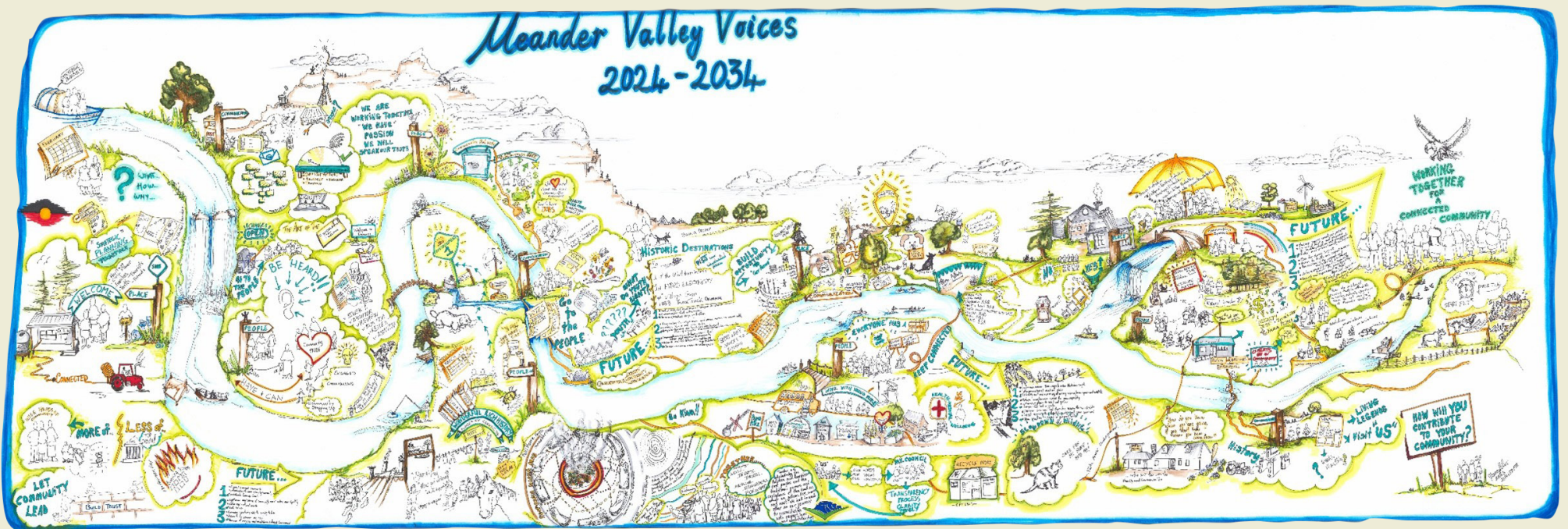


Mayor Wayne Johnston & Cr Kevin House at the raising of the rainbow flag to mark IDAHOBIT day

- We reviewed our community grants and sponsorships program. The available funding was increased by 50% in 2025 from \$100,000 to \$150,000.
- Many assets were damaged in the flood events of October 2022. Council responded immediately to fix public assets, and, over the subsequent years, continued to restore and improve other damaged, essential assets.
- New arrangements were approved for Council to recognise IDAHOBIT Day annually.
- The Westbury Bass Highway entry signs were changed over with imagery replaced from the Westbury Cricket Wickets to the Westbury Village Green.
- We voted to take over ownership and structurally improve the Deloraine visitor information bays from the State Government.



Attendees at the Meander Valley Voices consultation, Deloraine.



Graphical harvest of the Meander Valley Voices consultation, completed by Fiona Miller.

- Our Mayor was supported to join the Local Government Association Tasmania (LGAT) General Management Committee.
- Our Council regularly provided submissions to State Government legislative reviews, including the proposed introduction of Development Assessment Panels.
- We approved and commenced use of the Meander Valley place brand.
- We approved and commenced use of new Meander Valley Council logo and brand.
- We supported LGAT's Lift the Tone campaign.



Members of the Northern Tasmania Eventing Club at the 2024 Celebrating Community Awards held on the Westbury Village Green.



Local School children contributing to a mural in Deloraine.

- Our new Governance Charter was established which includes agreed behaviours and expectations of Councillors.
- We investigated and approved much-needed upgrades to Council's IT system, which was first installed in the late 1990s.
- We undertook a review of swimming pools and waterways with our community.
- Council hosted an Economic Development Forum with Government, Industry and property owners.



Customers at the Hop to Harvest event created in 2025.



The Meander Valley Art Award relocated to the Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre.



The new steel arch footbridge constructed over the Meander River.



New Westbury town entry/exit signs utilising the Meander Valley Place Brand.



Opening of the Deloraine Pocket Park, 2025.



Dancers at the 2025 Meander Valley Harmony Day.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL WORKS

Over the past four years, Council has invested in the everyday infrastructure that keeps our valley connected and strong. From roads and bridges to community buildings and essential services, these works support how we live, move and gather.

These achievements are the result of patient work, collaboration and a deep belief in the potential of our

valley. They represent more than concrete and steel. They are investments in belonging, opportunity and growth, ensuring that the Meander Valley continues to move forward, grounded in its past and confident in what comes next.

Together, these projects reflect careful stewardship and a shared commitment to a thriving Meander Valley, now and into the future.



Mayor Wayne Johnston with Deloraine Squash Club president, Corey Youd, at the opening of the Deloraine Squash Courts.

CONSTRUCTED THE
DELORAINE SQUASH
COURTS.



CONSTRUCTED THE VALLEY
CENTRAL WORKS DEPOT.

DELIVERED STAGE 1
OF THE DELORAINE
RACECOURSE PRECINCT.



FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Council officers and Councillors played an active role in regional and local planning, including participation in working groups and steering committees for the new Northern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy. During our term, we updated the Prospect Vale-Blackstone Heights Structure Plan and began developing a new

structure plan for Carrick. Both of these were and are grounded in strong community engagement and feedback. Council also worked to support substantial residential growth, particularly in Blackstone Heights, Prospect Vale, Hadspen and Carrick, while continuing to manage a range of complex planning applications across the municipality.

A structure plan commenced
to guide future
development in Carrick.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Council delivered significant progress in waste management and resource recovery across the municipality. Kerbside Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) collection was expanded from Blackstone Heights to Prospect Vale, Hadspen and Carrick, with further rollout to Westbury, Hagley and Exton commencing early in the 2026 - 2027 financial year. The Westbury landfill reached end of life, with council working closely with the Environmental Protection Authority on its closure and the commencement of land rehabilitation. Extensive planning

has shaped the future of the Deloraine Waste Centre, with major investment approved to transition to a new Deloraine Transfer Station. Construction is underway, along with the installation of a weighbridge to accurately monitor landfill use and diversion. This work culminated in a clear pathway to transition waste to larger regional facilities once the Deloraine landfill capacity is reached. And, finally, Council supported and facilitated important waste-reduction initiatives such as the state-wide Recycle Rewards program.



Historic landfill areas in the Meander Valley will be progressively phased out with the construction of a new Waste Transfer Station at the Deloraine Waste Depot, supported by a weighbridge that is now in operation.

IN CONCLUSION

The major achievements delivered over the past four years reflect the collective efforts of Meander Valley Council's councillors and employees, whose commitment and collaborative approach have underpinned the outcomes outlined in this report. Together, they have worked to address community needs, deliver essential services and plan responsibly for the municipality's future.

Council acknowledges the valuable contributions of community members, volunteers, other levels of Government and stakeholders who have supported initiatives and helped shape decisions throughout the term of office.

As the term concludes, these achievements provide a strong foundation for the incoming Council. The next group of councillors will have the opportunity to build on this work and continue progressing outcomes that support a resilient, well-planned and connected Meander Valley.



Mayor Wayne Johnston celebrates 2025 Sports Award recipient Rohan Eastley.



**Meander
Valley
Council**