



2019 FEDERAL ELECTION STRATEGY



Meeting: 17.04.2019
Item Number: 14.002/19*
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Huon River, Franklin
Image: Tourism Tasmania and Brendan Williams
Cover Image: Justin Hyde

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OVERVIEW

The Huon Valley Council has identified key areas in which the Council can work together with the Federal Government to achieve key priorities for the prosperity and amenity of the Huon Valley region.

RELATIONSHIPS

- The relationship between Local Government and the Federal Government is of utmost importance.
- This relationship is one based on mutual trust, openness, honesty, respect and confidence.
- Intergovernmental collaboration is essential for achieving the best outcomes for the public and the following Projects provide a further opportunity to do so. The Projects enable both Local Government and the Federal Government to continue to build upon the partnerships that have been established to ensure the best outcomes for all members of the public.

PROJECT SUMMARY

- Most Projects include a number of separate proposals.
- Importantly, the Projects also compliment and support the other Projects. This means there is the capacity for strong multiplier effects to be generated both locally and regionally from their implementation. This will greatly assist the Council, stakeholders and the community to address some of the pressing challenges that are now encountered from the recent bushfires and the economic, social and environmental effects from the fires on the region.

Council Projects (No. 1–6)

- Council has identified 6 key priority Council Projects.

Each Project has been identified by Council as a priority and is consistent with *Council's Strategic Plan 2015–2025*. Each proposal is at a stage where they can be implemented with the financial support that is sought.

Tourism Project (No. 7)

An advocacy-based Tourism Project is also included given the local and regional importance of each of the proposals that make up this Project. Council is strongly advocating for financial support to be provided to these specific proposals given their importance in the region.

1. HUONVILLE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

This Project includes four proposals:

a) Development of a regional key attraction open space area on Council open space land at the Esplanade, Huonville

Funding to develop a Huonville *Esplanade Key Attraction and Open Space Plan* including community consultation.

Proposal outcomes

- Regional open space destination for the Huon Valley
- Improved visitor attraction and open space opportunities alongside the Esplanade
- Integration of area with the foreshore linked to other places
- Generate employment

Cost / estimate

\$250,000 for the detailed Planning

Proposal status:

Ready to proceed

b) Relocation of the Council depot, Huonville to Light Industrial land at Glen Road and infrastructure upgrades

Funding to relocate the Council Depot to Light Industrial zoned land at Glen Road including infrastructure upgrades.

Proposal outcomes

- Activation of Glen Road Light Industrial zoned land
- Alternative use of Council depot land
- Glen Road and Glen Road bridge upgrade
- Upgrade of the Glen Road / Huon Highway intersection
- Generate employment

Cost / estimate

\$7.5 million

Proposal status:

Ready to proceed

c) Streetscape improvements Main Street, Huonville

Funding for completion of a *Huonville Streetscape Plan* to identify improvements to the Huonville streetscape and to its visual amenity to enhance Huonville as the gateway to the Huon Valley.

Proposal outcomes

- Provision of a Huonville Streetscape Master Plan
- Streetscape improvements identified for implementation
- Enhance Huonville as the gateway to the Huon Valley
- Generate employment

Cost / estimate

\$200,000 for the Management Plan

Proposal status:

Ready to proceed

d) Construction of a new road between Main Street and Sale Street/Flood Road with an upgrade to Flood Road

Funding for the construction of a new road to link Main Street and Sale Street through to Flood Road ('Link Road'). The construction costs require additional funding to current allocated funding for this proposal.

Proposal outcomes

- The Link Road is more cost effective than prior proposals for direction of traffic from the Esplanade
- Better route option to upgrading Channel Highway (Esplanade)
- Generate employment
- Improved traffic flow, safety and pedestrian amenity
- Reduction of traffic flow in Main Street and to roundabout at Huonville
- Aligns with community consultation expectations

Cost / estimate

\$15 million total cost. \$7.5 million already secured from State Government.

Proposal status:

Ready to proceed

2. UPGRADE OF COUNCIL BUILDINGS PROJECT

Council buildings at Huonville, Cygnet, Franklin, and Dover require upgrading or redevelopment. The buildings listed in section 2c) need alterations to make them more accessible to the public.

This Project has four proposals:

a) Extension to the Huonville Childcare Centre

Funding is required for an extension of the Childcare Centre to cater for the growing demand for childcare facilities in Huonville that reflects the population growth in the area.

Proposal outcomes:

- Increase childcare capacity at the centre
- Generate employment
- Demand for additional facilities is consistent with projections for high growth and growing employment in the Health Services and Social Assistance sector

Cost / estimate

\$700,000

Proposal status:

Ready to proceed

b) Construction of a new Dover Medical Centre

Funding is required for a new Dover Medical Centre to provide more capacity for the provision of medical and other services.

Proposal outcomes

- New medical services building to increase level of services
- New community space
- Generate employment
- Demand for additional facilities is consistent with projections for high growth and growing employment in the Health Services and Social Assistance sector

Cost / estimate

\$2.1 million

Proposal status:

Ready to proceed

c) Expansion of Dover Old School Building

Funding is required for the expansion of the Dover Old School Building to provide for community need.

Proposal outcomes

- Community have a commercial kitchen
- New meeting space
- Generate employment

Cost / estimate

\$2.4 million

Proposal status

Ready to proceed

d) Improved accessibility to Council buildings

Funding is required for alterations to improve accessibility to the Geeveston, Huonville and Cygnet Town Halls, and Franklin Palais.

Proposal outcomes

- Improved accessibility to these buildings
- Safer and more compliant buildings for use by the public
- Generate employment

Cost / estimate

\$2 million

Proposal status

Ready to proceed

3. FRANKLIN FORESHORE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Franklin Foreshore Redevelopment Project (Stage 2)

Funding is required for the second stage of the Franklin Foreshore Redevelopment Project.

Proposal outcomes:

- Improved amenity of the Franklin foreshore
- Walkway linkages to Franklin foreshore/marina area
- Generate employment
- Development of the Huon Valley as a recreational destination
- Increased access to healthy lifestyle options

Cost / estimate:

\$700,000

Project status:

Ready to proceed

4. SHARED WALKWAY PROJECT – FRANKLIN TO HUONVILLE

Funding is required for the construction of the Shared Walkway Project for a walkway between Franklin and Huonville.

Proposal outcomes:

- Completed walkway from Franklin to Huonville
- Generate employment
- Enhancing Franklin and Huonville as regional recreation destinations will have community, business and tourism benefits
- Increased access to healthy lifestyle options

Cost / estimate:

\$6.5 million

Project status:

Ready to proceed

5. CYGNET TOWNSHIP PLAN PROJECT

The *Cygnets Township Plan* approved in 2010 by Council includes a proposed circulation road to be located parallel to Mary Street between Mary Street and the Agnes Rivulet to improve traffic flow in Cygnet.

The road was a key proposal put forward in that plan to improve the traffic network in the centre of Cygnet by providing an alternative route for vehicles to use when travelling through Cygnet, for example, heavy vehicles. The land where the road would be located is currently zoned for future road use.

To activate the circulation road proposal funding is required for:

- Design documentation for the layout of the new road
- Community consultation on the proposal to be undertaken
- Following community consultation, for a scope of works for the construction of the road to be finalised

Project outcomes

Construction of the proposed circulation road will:

- Enable diversion of some passing traffic from Mary Street
- Enable improvements for pedestrian movement to be incorporated into the design and layout of the proposal
- Generate employment from the Project
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist amenity within this area
- Enable part of Mary Street to be closed to traffic
- Provide alternative parking options for delivery vehicles to use
- Potentially reduce heavy vehicle use on this section of Mary Street
- Be located on land currently zoned for future road use

Cost / estimate:

\$250,000

Project status:

Ready to proceed

6. INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Upgrade to Council roads

The Council is seeking funding for upgrading the Council roads listed below given their importance to visitors, residents, the tourism sector, and other regional sectors:

- Lune River Road;
- Narrows Road;
- North Huon Road;
- Mountain River Road and Huon Highway intersection
- Glen Road/Huon Highway intersection: Project 1

Upgrade to non-Council roads

The Council is advocating for financial support to be available for specific road upgrades on some roads it does not manage. In some cases Council is advocating for sections of roads to be upgraded, for example, a section of Arve Road not maintained by the Council, and new intersections.

Upgrades are required for:

- Arve Road;
- Bennetts Road;
- South Cape Road;
- Mountain River Road and Huon Highway intersection
- Glen Road/Huon Highway intersection: Project 1

7. TOURISM PROJECTS

Council is advocating for consideration of funding support for tourism-based projects that are run by other agencies or private industry given the importance they have to the region and capacity to support other projects. A number of significant projects are identified in the following section of this strategy that meet this criteria, however this list is not exhaustive and there are likely to be many other tourism-based projects run by other agencies or private industry that may also be worthy of consideration for federal funding support.

a) Franklin Evaporators redevelopment

Council supports the Franklin Evaporators redevelopment as it will:

- Be a key development in the revitalisation of the Franklin foreshore
- Complement other Council proposals for which funding is sought
- Deliver a key regional tourism complex for the Huon Valley
- Provide much needed longer term accommodation capacity
- Generate employment

b) Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs upgrade

Council supports the expansion and upgrade of the Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs facility as it will:

- Broaden its appeal as a key tourism destination
- Attract more visitors to the site and other Far South locations
- Complement other Council proposals for which funding is sought
- Generate employment

c) Next Iconic Walk in the Huon Valley

Council supports the Huon Valley being the location of the next Iconic Walk destination in Tasmania as this will:

- Broaden the appeal of the Huon Valley as a key tourism destination
- Attract more visitors to tourism locations in the valley
- Complement other Council proposals for which funding is sought
- Generate employment

d) Augmented Reality Beacon proposal

The use of augmented reality technology in the tourism sector extends opportunities for the public to interact with tourism places and features. As part of the broader *Tasmanian Visitor Engagement Strategy*, a proposal to deliver unique augmented reality experiences at key locations across the Huon Valley is proposed with State Government support that will:

- Broaden the appeal of the Huon Valley as a key tourism destination
- Inform more people and visitors about the history of these locations
- Complement other Council proposals for which funding is sought
- Generate employment

e) Ida Bay Railway

The Ida Bay Railway site, rail and buildings are a State Government owned heritage asset. The Ida Bay railway is currently not operational as it requires urgent restoration. Addressing the restoration of the railway and rolling stock is vital to the ongoing operation of the site.

To support the attraction, the existing site infrastructure and amenities, including cafe, accommodation and picnic areas require renewal and restorations to bring them up to date with modern visitor expectations and to make them compliant with relevant regulations.





1. HUONVILLE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

This Project has four funding proposals:

a) Development of a regional key attraction and open space area; b) Council depot relocation and associated infrastructure upgrade; c) Huonville streetscape improvements; d) Construction of a Link Road, Huonville.

PROPOSAL 1A): DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL ATTRACTION AND OPEN SPACE AREA ON COUNCIL OPEN SPACE LAND ADJACENT TO THE ESPLANADE

Funding is sought for consultation to be undertaken and for preparation of a detailed plan for Council Open Space land between Sale Street and the Esplanade to be developed as a regional open space attraction shown on the following plans. Previous Master Plan community consultation showed keen support for an area in this location.

More reasons to stop and visit

Huonville is approximately a 40 minute drive from Hobart, and approximately 60 minutes from the Hobart Airport. It is therefore located a comparable distance from Hobart and the airport to other well-known locations in Southern Tasmania. The proposals that make up this Project will provide good reasons for more visitors to come to the Huon Valley. They will also provide strong incentives for other people to consider relocating to the valley which is important to the prosperity of the region.

Currently even when visitors drive to Huonville, approximately 37% pass through the town without stopping to visit or stay. Therefore, activating this proposal for Huonville to develop as a key regional destination, and activating other complementary proposals that make up this Project, will start addressing those challenges.

Open space multi-purpose area for Huonville

The creation of a regional attraction open space multi-purpose area in the middle of Huonville with convenient parking and amenities will provide new reasons for visitors to stop and visit. Also, having a well-developed, safe open space area which is connected to other places by tracks and trails, will provide reasons for visitors to come to Huonville for one or more days to use and enjoy this area. Therefore, through provision of more community facilities, this proposal will generate more local business and investment, which will in turn provide significant regional benefits.

Proposal description

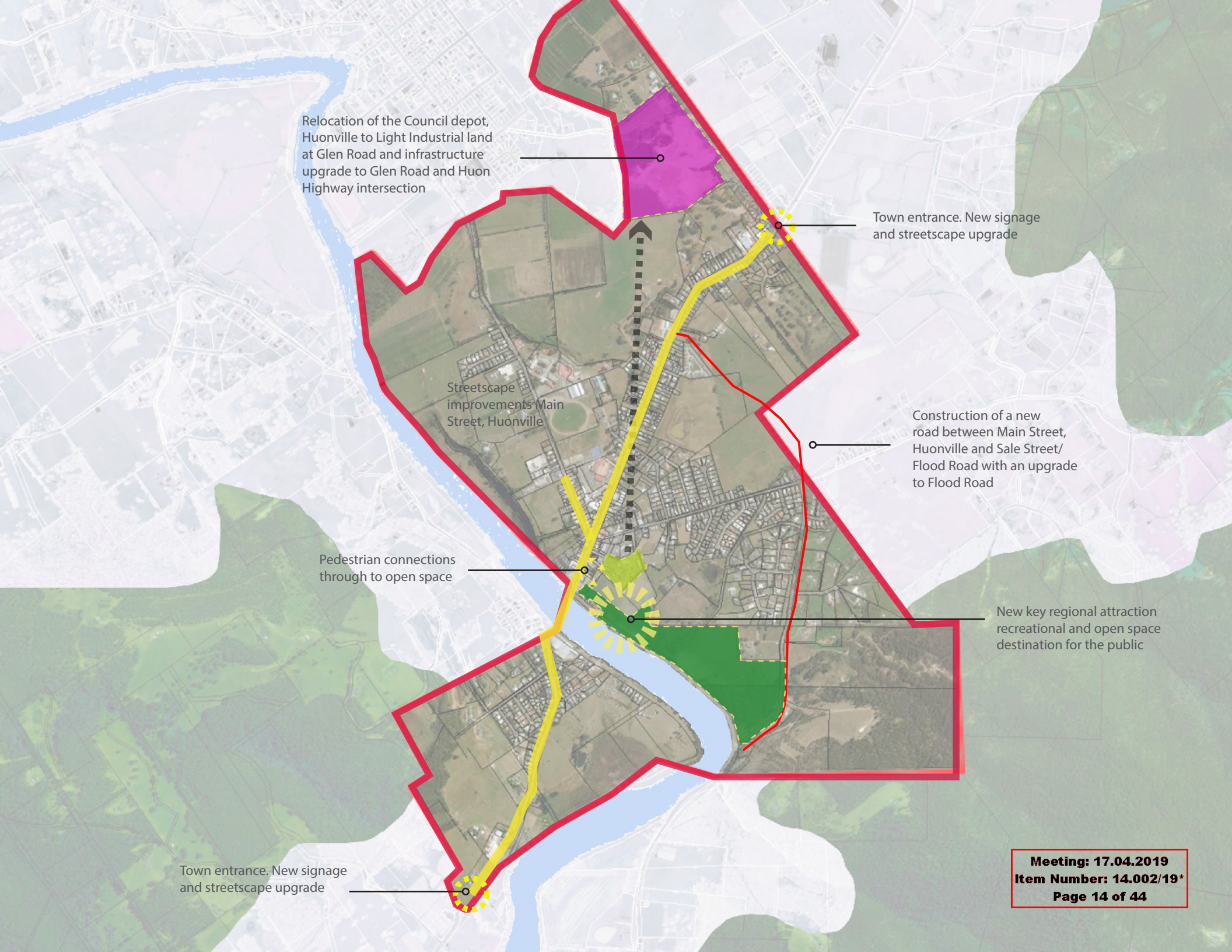
The Council land is well suited for this proposal as it is centrally located, near the town centre with good connectivity to Main Street. It is also close to the Visitor Centre, new and proposed residential areas, the Huon River foreshore, Skinners Creek walking track. It is adjacent to other Council land towards Flood Road that will complement its use as an open space reserve and regional attraction.

Proposal cost

\$200,000
Consultation and provision of a Huonville Esplanade Open Space Plan.

Proposal commencement

The proposal is ready to proceed.



Relocation of the Council depot, Huonville to Light Industrial land at Glen Road and infrastructure upgrade to Glen Road and Huon Highway intersection

Town entrance. New signage and streetscape upgrade

Streetscape improvements Main Street, Huonville

Construction of a new road between Main Street, Huonville and Sale Street/ Flood Road with an upgrade to Flood Road

Pedestrian connections through to open space

New key regional attraction recreational and open space destination for the public

Town entrance. New signage and streetscape upgrade

Proposal specifics

This proposal is consistent with the Master Plan which:

- Identified the expansion of passive recreational opportunities near the Huon River and, on the river, as a key opportunity for Huonville;
- Recommends a plan be prepared for this land for this development and for this plan to take into account the Transport Management Study for Huonville and Ranelagh referred to in the Master Plan. That study will consider diversion of traffic away from the Esplanade (Channel Highway) and creation of a 'Link Road' within Huonville: Project 1d) below;
- Recommends all the proposed recreation area shown in plan zoned Open Space. Some of this land is currently zoned General Business.

Proposal outcomes

Important outcomes from this proposal will be:

- Provision of a Huonville Esplanade Open Space Plan
- Activation of a new regional destination for the public
- Creation of a regional key attraction for Huonville that will have many benefits
- Improved recreational opportunities alongside the Esplanade
- Potential for more business investment in Huonville to be generated
- Opportunities for more commercial services (eg; hire of bikes and canoes)
- Generate employment during the project and after it is implemented
- Encouragement for visitors to stop and spend time in Huonville and Ranelagh
- Liveability and healthy lifestyle outcomes
- Integration and connection of the Open Space area with the river foreshore
- Improved connectivity with other walking tracks and trails: eg, Project 4
- Potential for other community uses including events and markets
- Complementary activities on other Council land that adjoins Flood Road
- Reduction of through traffic will make the land adjacent to the Esplanade area more suitable for proposed recreational uses and make the bridge intersection safer

PROPOSAL 1B): RELOCATION OF COUNCIL DEPOT, HUONVILLE TO LIGHT INDUSTRIAL LAND AT GLEN ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

An important reason for the relocation of the Council depot to the Glen Road Light Industrial zoned land is to activate use of the Glen Road land for light industrial use. The relocation will also enable the Council land on which the depot is located to be developed for more suitable alternative uses.

Importantly, the Light Industrial land is strategically important to the Huon Valley, for its growth and for the availability of Light Industrial zoned lots for longer term industrial development.

Proposal description (3 infrastructure components)

This funding proposal is to enable:

- Relocation of the Council depot to 119 Glen Road, Huonville;
- Establishment of a new Council depot site on the Light Industrial land; and
- Upgrading of Glen Road as this road connects the Light Industrial land to the Huon Highway and Ranelagh.

Activation of the Light Industrial land will generate additional heavy vehicle use and from the industrial land, there is a need to upgrade Glen Road, the Glen Road bridge and intersection of Glen Road with the

highway to cater for the additional heavy vehicle use.

The State Highway is a high usage, high volume and high speed highway, and therefore the intersection needs upgrading to make it safer for this reason.

The Master Plan refers to the need for improvements to be made for heavy vehicles to access the Glen Road industrial area at page 42 of that plan (SS1).

Proposal cost estimate

\$7,500,000

Funding is required by Council for :

a) Consultancy services:

The engagement of a consultant is required for:

- Provision of design and specifications for the establishment of the new depot at Glen Road, decommissioning the existing depot at Huonville and for related infrastructure works;
- Obtaining regulatory approvals for the works;
- Engagement of contractors for site works;
- Other required transitional arrangements;

b) Establishment of a new depot at Glen Road;

c) Decommissioning of the existing depot and site rehabilitation works;

d) Infrastructure works that include:

- Upgrade to Glen Road;
- Glen Road bridge upgrade;
- Glen Road/Huon Highway upgrade. This work will require State Government involvement and include:
 - » Provision of improved turning lanes for vehicles turning from Glen Road onto the highway, and from the highway into Glen Road;
 - » Provision of public lighting.

Proposal commencement

The proposal is ready to proceed.

Proposal specifics

The use of the land for light industry use is consistent with *Council's Strategic Plan 2015–2025*, the *Huon Valley Interim Planning Scheme 2015*, *Council's Economic Development Strategy 2015–2025*, and the *Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy*, *Southern Tasmanian Industrial Land Strategy* (2011 SGS report and 2013 SGS report).

Proposal outcomes

This proposal will result in:

a) Establishment of a new Council depot at Glen Road that will provide:

- For timely activation of the Glen Road Light Industrial land
- For clear long term investment in necessary infrastructure for heavy vehicle use of Glen Road and the Glen Road/Huon Highway intersection
- Support to current and fast growing commercial, residential and other development in the area and region
- An impetus for use of the light industrial area by interested parties
- Opportunities for industrial and commercial development
- Employment opportunities during / after construction work on both sites

b) Consideration of alternative use and development proposals for the current depot site that takes into account that it is located:

- Centrally, near the town centre with good connectivity to Main Street
- Next to the proposed regional recreational area: Project 1a)

c) Alternative use and development of the current depot site that will result in:

- Further long term investment opportunities
- Short and long term employment opportunities

d) Improved community infrastructure:

- Improvements to the standard and condition of Glen Road, Glen Road bridge and the intersection will provide for a safer road network in the area, improve amenity and traffic flow and pedestrian safety
- Short and long term employment opportunities for these works Council depot location

PROPOSAL 1C): IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STREETScape OF MAIN STREET, HUONVILLE

This proposal is for community consultation to be undertaken and for preparation of a Streetscape Plan for Huonville to set out streetscape improvements to the town's visual amenity and street layout.

Implementation of a streetscape plan will enhance the role of Huonville as the gateway to the Huon Valley and will complement the outcomes of other Projects and provide more reasons for people to stop, visit and stay in the area.

The Streetscape Plan includes Key Directions which recommend town entrance, streetscape and other town presentation improvements.

The community indicated during community consultation for preparation of the Master Plan improvements to the streetscape is an important issue for Huonville. A summary of the community feedback is set out in the Master Plan.

Proposal description

Funding is required for community consultation to be undertaken and for preparation of a Streetscape Plan for Huonville.

Proposal cost:

\$200,000

Provision of a Huonville Streetscape Plan.

Proposal commencement

The proposal is ready to proceed.

Proposal specifics

To improve the visual appeal, amenity, liveability and walkability of Huonville consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025*, Council's *Economic Development Strategy 2015–2025*, Planning Scheme and the Master Plan.

Proposal outcomes

This proposal will result in:

- A Huonville Streetscape Plan for implementation
- Increase pedestrian movement/ walkability within the town
- Economic benefits as outlined in the Master Plan (Appendix, p16)
- Potential to attract new visitors and businesses to Huonville
- Enhance Huonville as the gateway to the Huon Valley
- Generate employment during the proposal and after it is implemented
- Encouragement for visitors to stop and spend time in Huonville
- Liveability and healthy lifestyle outcomes

PROPOSAL 1D): CONSTRUCTION OF A LINK ROAD, HUONVILLE

Funding for a road to link Main Street and Sale Street through to Flood Road to divert traffic around the town centre has been identified by Council as a very important infrastructure priority ('Link Road'). An indicative route is shown on Image 1 and page 26.

The proposed Link Road will result in substantially better outcomes than previous traffic management options that have been considered. The proposed new road will also provide a link to parking areas near the proposed Esplanade recreational area: Project 1a).

The need for this proposal is a reflection of the increasing traffic generated from the increased population in the valley, from strong residential and commercial development in Huonville, Ranelagh and other parts of the Huon Valley.

Population

The population of Tasmania is growing and this is reflected in the Huon Valley which is experiencing strong population growth relative to many other Tasmanians local government areas with increased demand for services and for improvements to community infrastructure to be made (see further Master Plan extracts).

Community concerns

The number of vehicles that pass through the main street of Huonville daily is similar to the number that travels through Campbell Town on the Midland Highway. The high traffic volume on Main Street creates problems for pedestrians attempting to cross that road, in effect dividing the town, and also creates traffic flow problems for motorists.

The amount of traffic on Main Street and the vehicle congestion it generates in Huonville, together with other traffic related issues, are key issues of concern to the community. Traffic management concerns have been highlighted by the community over many years and were highlighted during consultation for the Master Plan. A summary of this community feedback is set out in the Master Plan.

Traffic generated by-residential and commercial development

Larger scale residential subdivisions within Huonville are being progressed and are resulting in substantially more traffic movements in the town. Also, there are an increasing number of visitors coming to Huonville and on to other parts of the Huon Valley as Huonville is only a relatively short drive from Hobart or from the airport. This has in turn increased the urgency for construction of the Link Road to divert traffic away from the Channel Highway section of the Esplanade.

Whilst the larger scale residential housing developments within the town boundary are being progressed and are providing a major economic boost for the Huon region in construction, and much-needed jobs, and addressing a chronic housing shortage, there is a corresponding and pressing need for an improved transport network within the town.

Proposal description

Infrastructure priority

The need to upgrade the transport network to provide for a diversion of the Channel Highway traffic via Flood Road to the Huon Highway to address safety and traffic congestion issues within Huonville is an urgent issue.

Safety issues – Esplanade section of the Channel Highway to intersection

Many drivers going to and from Cygnet to Huonville use the current Channel Highway/ Main Street intersection at the Huon River Bridge. However, the bridge intersection is not well aligned, creating line-of-sight issues for motorists and is considered unsatisfactory and at times unsafe. It is often congested like the roundabout.

Another safety issue is that the vital Cygnet-Huonville highway link is impacted by flooding as it is flood prone along the Huon River foreshore (Esplanade).

Heavy vehicles and buses travelling in opposite directions can result in other safety issues when they pass each other on the bridges due to the width of the bridges.

An improved network is required to not only service new residential and commercial development within Huonville but also cater for traffic impacts of development elsewhere in the valley on Huonville.

More cost effective solution

The 'Link Road' option is the most practicable solution as it:

- Negates the need to replace two Channel Highway (Esplanade) bridges that are due for replacement;
- Is much more cost effective as a solution than both the previous Channel Highway bypass proposal and previous Huon River Esplanade redevelopment proposal and can be achieved in a more timely manner;
- Will have substantially better outcomes than previous proposals;
- Is compatible with the proposed recreational proposal: Project 1a).

Proposal cost:

Total project cost \$15 million

Although funding has been provided by the State Government (\$7.5 million) funding is required for the completion of the construction of the Link Road and upgrade of Flood Road.

Proposal commencement

The proposal is ready to proceed.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025*, Council's *Economic Development Strategy 2015–2025* and Master Plan. This proposal will result in construction of a new road through a greenfield housing development site currently under development between Sale Street and Main Street with a connection to Main Street/Huon Highway just north of the town centre, and Flood Road upgrade.

Proposal outcomes/solutions

The Link Road will:

- Be a more cost effective solution to previous traffic management options
- Provide a major economic and jobs boost to the Huon Valley region
- Facilitate redevelopment of the Huon River Esplanade area as a regional recreation destination and complement other Projects
- Improve the visual appeal, amenity, liveability and walkability of Huonville
- Provide opportunities for expansion of community services
- Divert many of the 3600 vehicles a day away from the current unsatisfactory Huon Bridge/Channel Highway intersection
- Cut by a third more than 10,000 vehicle traffic movements each day from the Huonville Town Centre
- Help flood-proof the vital Cygnet-Huonville highway link which is prone to flooding along the Huon River foreshore (Esplanade)
- Reduce the difficulties larger vehicles currently have when using the route through to the Channel Highway/Huon Highway intersection at the bridge
- Be a safer option and improve traffic flow, safety and amenity
- Provide opportunities for complementary commercial activities
- Provide opportunities for associated parking areas
- Provide opportunities for improved access and parking for the bus transit area in Skinners Drive including for park and ride services
- Result in a new road in Huonville and upgrade to Flood Road

2. UPGRADE OF COUNCIL BUILDINGS PROJECT

A) EXTENSION TO THE HUONVILLE CHILDCARE CENTRE

Funding is required for the redevelopment of 2 Heron Street, Huonville to a purpose built, modern and well-equipped Outside School Hours Care facility to cater for the growing demand for childcare facilities in Huonville that reflects the population growth in the area.

The Council currently owns and operates a number of child care programs throughout the Huon Valley. The Centre at 91–93 Main Street, Huonville has been owned by the Council since 2000. It is currently licensed for 115 places ranging from 0–12 years of age.

Proposal description

The Council has long recognised the important role that the provision of high-quality Children's Services programs plays in promoting and encouraging education and learning in the formative years of a person's life. The provision of Children's Services programs by the Council is based on the recognition of the important role childcare plays in the economic and social wellbeing of the community.

With the growing number of families unable to be provided with childcare to suit their needs and the projected increase in families as a result of major residential developments in the Huonville area over the next two years, the expansion of the Outside School Hours Care program to a vacant workshop at 2 Heron Street is required. This development will create extra 70 childcare places across all programs and meet the current demand.

Proposal cost

The cost of this proposal is approximately \$700,000. Council has secured funding of \$200,000 towards this proposal and is seeking an investment of \$500,000.

Proposal commencement

This proposal is development ready once funding is obtained.

Proposal specifics

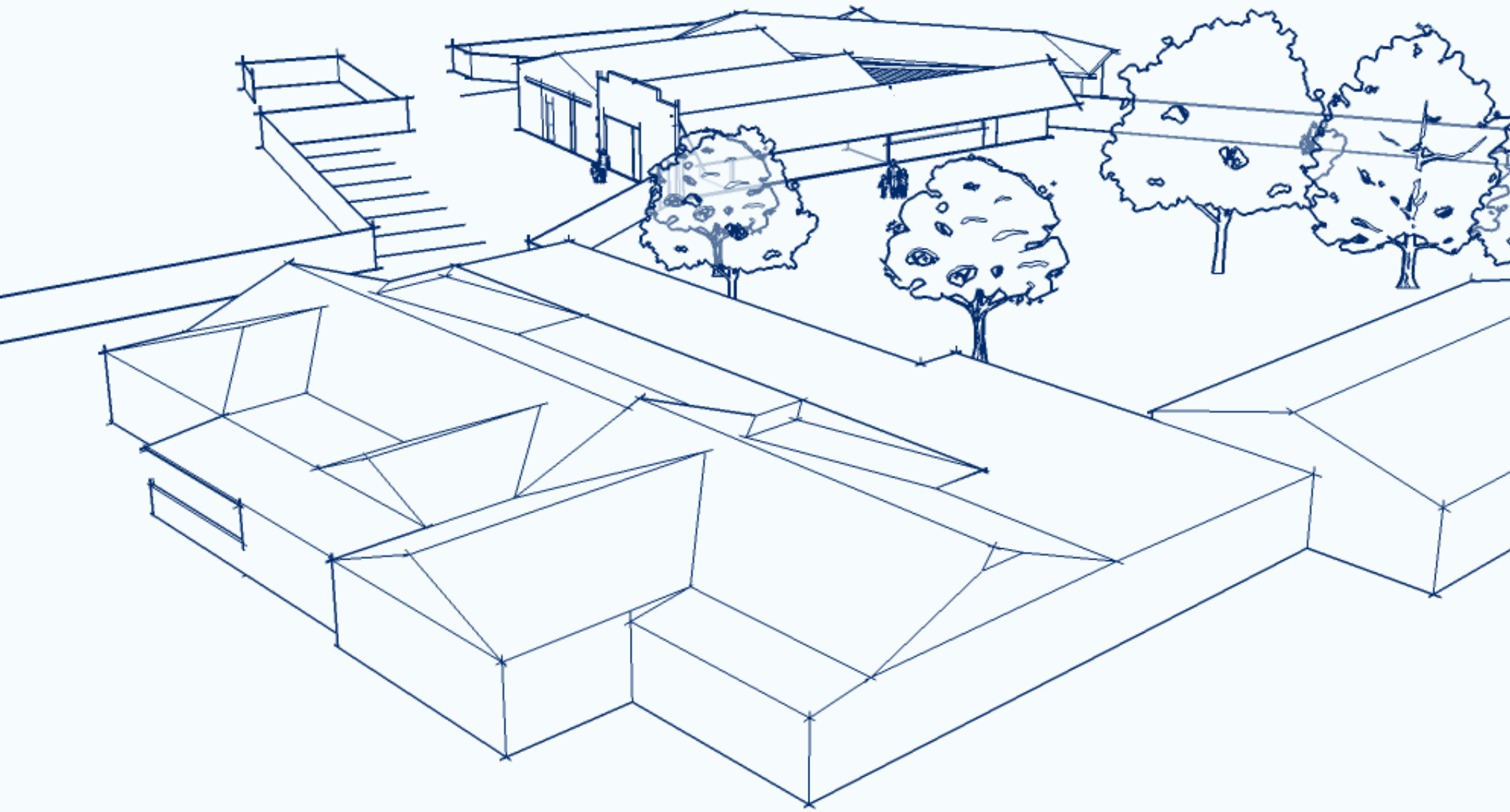
The proposal is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025* and the Master Plan. Demand for additional facilities is consistent with projections for high growth and growing employment in the Health Services and Social Assistance sector.

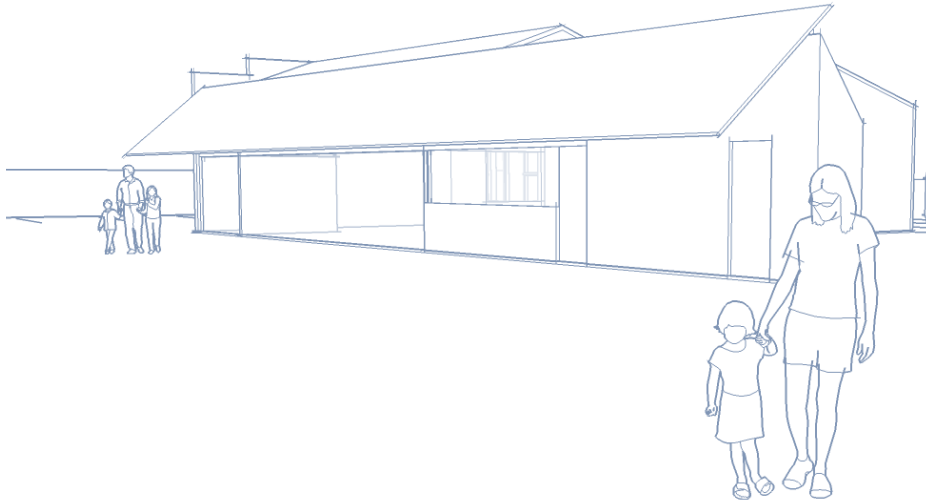
The proposal will consist of:

- Redevelopment and construction of a purpose-built, modern and well-equipped Expanded Outside School Hours Care Program
- Expansion of Long Day Care program
- The expansion of the Children's Services Program will create extra 70 childcare places across all programs and meet the current demand

Proposal outcomes

- Expansion of Outside School Hours Care by redeveloping 2 Heron Street to a purpose-built, modern and well-equipped Outside School Hours Care
- Expansion of Long Day Care provision
- Generate employment





B) REDEVELOPMENT TO THE DOVER MEDICAL CENTRE

Funding is required for the construction of a purpose-built facility located adjacent to the existing medical centre lease area and closely situated to aged care, independent living, early learning and care and other community buildings located at 17 Chapman Avenue, Dover.

Proposal description

The Dover Medical Centre is the southernmost general practice in Australia and is the only general practice in the township. The existing infrastructure leased for the Dover Medical Centre severely limits the ability to provide a comprehensive range of allied health services simply due to the lack of space and facilities available.

This proposal will ensure adequate and suitable space to secure essential GP services for the township whilst providing space for additional GPs and allied health professionals to deliver an extended range of health services, health promotion and preventative activities.

The current Centre space restriction reduces the capacity to accommodate the number of medical student clinical placements available from the University of Tasmania. General Practice Training Tasmania is the Regional Training Organisation in Tasmania for Australian General Practice training and although being accredited to supervise Registrars, unfortunately due to space limitations the practice is limited to offering full time placement. Currently providers share space or use rooms which are not set up for clinical use.

By increasing the space available, the facility will assist in attracting allied health providers such as dietitians and exercise physiologists and retain allied health providers such as psychology services, podiatry, nurse led foot care, physiotherapy and diabetes educators. Space for services offered by the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation will also be available. The total area of the proposed works is approximately 335m².

The lack of existing infrastructure is considered to be a barrier in the delivery and future expansion of essential primary health services and impacts negatively on the sustainability of such services for local community members in this rural area. The opportunity to relocate from an existing restricted space located within the local aged care facility will enable the aged care facility to expand aged care services.

The new facility will consist of three General Practitioner consulting rooms with one room dedicated for Registrars, three allied health / medical student training consultant rooms, a multi-use community room for education, training and group sessions, a dedicated treatment room with ambulance bay and sufficient space for patients, staff and allied health and visiting specialists.

The Council's current General Practitioners are experienced and have an interest in teaching students and supervising Registrars and can see the numerous benefits of a purpose-built facility to strengthen the viability of the practice whilst increasing teaching and training opportunities for; health practitioners including medical, allied health professionals, nursing, Aboriginal health practitioners and trainee doctors expected as a result of the new infrastructure.

A meeting/training room will provide space for case conferences and clinical meetings, whilst providing a dedicated space for regular training sessions with the General Practitioners and the Emergency Medical Education and Training Hub from the Royal Hobart Hospital.

The provision of adequate space for tele-health will ensure a greater number of patients can be managed locally by General Practitioners in consultation with public specialist services at the Royal Hobart Hospital and private Practitioners, alleviating the need for un-well patients to travel out of the area.

The inclusion of the multi-use/community room in which group education, health information sessions as well as group sessions can be facilitated by visiting allied health professionals and organisations will extend service delivery and address unmet healthcare needs in the community.

Proposal cost

The cost of this proposal is approximately \$2.1 million. Council has secured funding of \$200,000 towards this proposal and is seeking an investment of \$1.9 million.

Proposal commencement

This proposal is development ready once funding is obtained.

Proposal specifics

The proposal will consist of:

- Redevelopment and construction of a purpose-built, modern and well-equipped facility located adjacent to the existing medical centre lease area and closely situated to aged care, independent living, early learning and care, and other community buildings
- Dedicated rooms for allied health, medical student training and consult rooms
- A multi-use community room for education, training and group sessions with external access enabling after hours use

Proposal outcomes

A purpose built facility will facilitate community health improvement by:

- Retention and recruitment of additional General Practitioners
- Provision of a dedicated space and expansion of practice nurse hours
- Expanding and attracting allied health professionals to the rural community
- Providing a meeting/training space for the community and health professionals for health and wellbeing initiatives, meetings and training sessions
- Increasing the availability and range of privately insurable health services available locally
- Providing an areas for group training and exercise programs
- Enabling and encouraging the training of registrars and medical students
- Generate employment

C) EXPANSION OF DOVER OLD SCHOOL BUILDING

Funding is required for the redevelopment and expansion of the Dover Old School Building located at 6987 Huon Highway, Dover.

Proposal description

The Dover Old School Building is currently home to the Dover Online Centre, Bush Telegraph and Esperance Living History Museum.

Recent community engagement indicated the community desire for a community hall or centre. Dover is a small coastal settlement with a population of 486. The town does not have a large community centre. There are many small meeting places throughout the town that accommodate 20-25 people, but a facility for a community meeting, celebration or event with a commercial kitchen is required.

Proposal cost

The cost of this proposal is approximately \$2.4 million including car park improvements.

Proposal specifics

The proposal will consist of:

- Redevelopment and expansion of the current Old School Building to a larger community room for functions and events.
- Commercial kitchen.
- Dedicated areas for the current tenants Dover Online Centre, Bush Telegraph and Esperance Living History Museum.
- Introduction of an Information Hub.
- Creation of a large gallery space
- Outcomes
- A purpose built facility to meet the needs of the Dover Community and surrounds.
- Generate employment through the creation of a Community Hub, housing information services and visitor experiences.
- Providing an area that can be used for community events, celebrations and meetings.
- Dedicated Art Gallery space for exhibitions.

D) IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY TO COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Funding is required for alterations to improve accessibility to these buildings.

The proposals are ready to proceed on confirmation of funding.

They will result in:

- Improved access to the buildings for people with a disability
- Safer and more compliant buildings for use by the public
- Generate employment
- People will be able to move around the building independently, with ease and dignity
- Building safety in the case of emergency

Project costs

Cygnets Town Hall \$300,000

Installation of a lift to enable use of upstairs supper room.

Franklin Palais \$250,000

Installation of a lift to enable use of upstairs supper room.

Geeveston Town Hall \$150,000

Installation of a lift to the upstairs Art Gallery and Meeting room.

Huonville Town Hall \$350,000

New toilets / Change room for theatre group with the inclusion of downstairs kitchenette to allow the area to be self-contained for events.



3. FRANKLIN FORESHORE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT (STAGE 2)

This project is for the development of a marina precinct at the gateway to Franklin which is located between the Rowing Club and the Wooden Boat Centre.

Project description

The proposed development will enhance the public amenity of the surrounds and enable this highly valued waterfront to be accessible to the community whilst also catering for tourist visitations and enhancing economic potential for the area.

Council is currently working on Stage 1 of the development which includes:

- Detailed geotechnical site investigation
- Preparation of structural drawings for stabilising the foreshore bank
- Construction of a wharf suitable for berthing commercial vessels
- Formalising areas to be used for shared pedestrian and vehicle access
- Linkages to walking tracks
- Construction of a kayak platform

Funding is sought to complete Stage 2 of the development which will include:

- Works for improving the area off the Huon Highway and in front of the Wooden Boat Centre for use

- Providing pedestrian pathway linkages connecting the southern end of the Franklin Foreshore to the existing walking track located to the north of town – with eventual linkage via the Franklin Foreshore Shared Pathway to Huonville (Project 4)

Project cost

\$700,000

Project commencement:

This proposal is development ready once funding is obtained for this stage.

Project outcomes

This proposal will:

- Retain the character of Franklin as a regional residential town with a working water front
- Improve and restore the historic connections between the town and its foreshore precinct
- Strengthen and promote pedestrian linkages between the different precincts within the town
- Improve traffic management
- Improve the amenity of the Franklin foreshore
- Provide for walkway linkages to Franklin foreshore/marina area

- Generate employment
- Further develop the Huon Valley as a recreational destination
- Increase access to healthy lifestyle options
- On completion provide pedestrian pathway linkages connecting the southern end of the Franklin Foreshore to the existing walking track located to the north of town and via the Franklin Foreshore Shared Pathway to Huonville (Project 4).

HUONVILLE

Shared walkway between
Franklin and Huonville

FRANKLIN EVAPORATORS BUILDING

FRANKLIN

FRANKLIN FORESHORE PROJECT

4. SHARED WALKWAY PROJECT – FRANKLIN TO HUONVILLE

The Huonville to Franklin Foreshore Shared Pathway will be constructed from Coolstore Road in Huonville, covering a distance of 7.5km (15km return) along the Huon River riverbank through to Franklin finishing at the Wooden Boat School.

At present there are only a few fairly small areas of public access to the river bank which means that this beautiful natural asset is under utilised by residents and under appreciated by visitors to our region. The construction of this walkway will therefore provide an important passive recreational link between Franklin and Huonville.

The Master Plan identified the expansion of passive recreational opportunities near the Huon River as key opportunities for Huonville.

Community support

This proposal has broad community support it was identified as a priority at the Huon Valley 2020 Future Search Conference conducted in December 2007.

It is recognised that having a picturesque, accessible and safe shared use pathway will benefit residents and attract visitors to the Huon Valley, and enhance the standing of the Huon Valley in terms of promoting physical activity, highlighting family participation in active outdoor pursuits including walking cycling and kayaking.

Feasibility Study

A detailed Feasibility Study being undertaken will provide advice and information on the project to Council including:

- Estimated construction and ongoing maintenance costs of the pathway
- Identify community health and wellbeing benefits from the project
- Identify social and economic benefits to the community from the pathway
- Advise on technical, engineering, planning and regulatory approval requirements for its construction

Importantly based on information received during the preparation of the Feasibility Study by Council, the outcomes of the study will fully support its construction.

Economic benefits

There are broad economic benefits which would arise from the development of this pathway. It has the potential to attract numerous visitors each year and has good synergies with other tourist activities in the area. This proposal capitalises on the beauty of the Huon River and has the potential to become a significant walk for the region.

It will also provide opportunities for interpretation of the cultural heritage of the area. It is ideally suited to day trips from Hobart and opens up a range of opportunities for direct employment through the establishment of small businesses such as canoe and bike hire operations or coffee outlets.

Employment opportunities will also be created during the construction phase of the project.

Project description

The multi-use pathway will be 7.5km (15km return) and constructed along the riverbank from Franklin to Huonville and will be largely contained within the Crown Land foreshore reserve beside the Huon River. It will be constructed so that it will have accessibility features for use by people with a disability.

As a shared pathway it will be for walkers and cyclists.

Proposal cost

\$6.5 million

Proposal commencement

This proposal is development ready once funding is obtained.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025*, Council's *Economic Development Strategy 2015–2025*, *Huon Valley Walking Track Strategy 2007* and other Council plans and strategies.

Proposal outcomes

This proposal will:

- Provide for a completed walkway between Franklin and Huonville
- Enhance Franklin and Huonville as regional recreation destinations
- Provide for important community, business and tourism benefits
- Increase access to healthy lifestyle options by promoting physical activity
- Highlight individual and family participation in active outdoor pursuits and activities
- Provide numerous benefits to the Huon Valley both to tourism and local residents
- Generate employment during and after it is completed including opportunities through establishment of small businesses such as canoe and bike hire operations
- Provide opportunities for interpretation of the display of the history of Franklin and Aboriginal and cultural heritage of the area
- Complement other Projects
- Align with increased interest and participation in passive recreational activities



5. CYGNET TOWNSHIP PLAN PROJECT

The *Cygnets Township Plan* approved in 2010 by Council includes a proposed circulation road to be located parallel to Mary Street between Mary Street and the Agnes Rivulet.

Project description

The road is a key proposal put forward in the *Cygnets Township Plan* to improve the traffic network in the centre of Cygnets by providing an alternative route for heavy vehicles and other vehicles travelling through this part of Cygnets.

Zoning

A Planning Scheme zone has previously been incorporated into the scheme that zones the land where the circulation road will be located.

Funding

To activate the circulation road proposal funding is required for:

- Design documentation for the layout of the new road to be prepared
- Community consultation on the proposal to be undertaken
- Following community consultation, for a scope of works for the construction of the road to be finalised

Proposal cost / estimate:

\$250,000

Project commencement

The project will commence on confirmation of funding.

Project specifics

The proposal will activate part of the *Cygnets Township Plan*. It is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025*.

Project outcomes

Construction of the proposed circulation road will:

- Activate another part of the Cygnets Township Plan
- Enable diversion of some passing traffic from Mary Street
- Potentially reduce heavy vehicle use on this section of Mary Street
- Generate employment
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist amenity within this area
- For events, enable part of Mary Street to be closed to traffic
- Enable improvements for pedestrian movement to be incorporated into the design and layout of the proposal
- Provide additional parking spaces for delivery vehicles to use, because instead of parking on Mary Street when deliveries are made, the design of the circulation road will incorporate alternative delivery vehicle parking spaces
- Be located on land currently zoned for Future Road Corridor

6. INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Major Tourist Routes and Significant Roads

The following roads in the Huon Valley provide access to major tourist destinations, important locations and industries are therefore very important to the Huon Valley.

Upgrades to roads

Funding to upgrade roads to major tourist destinations and other important locations in the Huon Valley is very important to tourism, other businesses in the region and the community. Council's *Economic Development Strategy 2015–2020* strongly supports further upgrading and maintenance of these roads so they better meet contemporary standards and are made more accessible throughout the year.

Although not all of these are Council owned roads, Council strongly advocates for funding for their upgrade and maintenance because of their importance. These (non-Council) roads include: part of Arve Road; Bennetts Road; Huon Highway/Mountain River Road intersection; Glen Road/Huon Highway intersection: Project 1. Council advocates upgrading of Lune River Road and the South Cape Road for vehicles travelling further south.

Road users

It is important that this funding proposal is considered from the perspective of visitors and the word of mouth referrals they can pass on for the region. This is because upgraded road infrastructure will result in improved driving conditions, more visitors to the region and better visitor experiences by these roads being more 'user friendly'. Upgraded road infrastructure on these routes will provide for safer driving conditions as unsealed roads can present safety challenges for drivers not experienced with driving under these conditions.

Limitations affecting business activity

Visitors hiring cars are often restricted as to the type of roads they can travel on as hiring limitations may apply to use of hire vehicles on gravel roads. This means that key attractions in the Huon Valley accessed via gravel roads such as Hastings Caves and Thermal Pools, Ida Bay Railway, as well as other Far South attractions are not visited, or visited as much as they could be, because of these limitations. This issue is noted in a 2012 State Government report.

A) ARVE ROAD

Arve Road is located 30 kilometres south of Huonville and provides the primary access to the major tourist attraction, Tahune Airwalk and also to Hartz Mountains.

This road is narrow and winds around undulating terrain. It carries a significant amount of traffic including heavy traffic from the Southwood mill and from plantations (High Productivity Vehicles).

Proposal description

The current road alignment and construction does not suit the volume and type of traffic and it is therefore suffering increased wear and tear. Reconstruction of 1 kilometre of the road is required including stabilisation, realignment, and reshaping to increase road safety to meet current standards.

Proposal cost

\$1.6 million

Proposal commencement

Construction works can commence following the completion of design and administration requirements.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025*, Council's *Economic Development Strategy 2015–2020* and infrastructure plans. Given the change in the nature of the use of this road over time, and its key role in tourism and industry, funding is needed to ensure that it is upgraded to meet the expectations of tourists, residents and business operators as a main tourist route.

Proposal outcomes

- Improved road safety through upgraded infrastructure
- Increased accessibility to major tourist attractions and industries
- Increased business activity and employment

The Huon Highway Corridor Study, a 2012 State Government report, noted community responses in the study. In reference to the Tahune Airwalk and visitor numbers at the time the report states:



HUONVILLE

Intersection of Huon Highway
and Mountain River Road

North Huon Road

Huon Highway

GEEVESTON

Arve Road

Bennetts Road

Narrows Road

SOUTHPORT

South Cape Road

B) BENNETTS ROAD

From Arve Road, Bennetts Road joins Esperance River Road to provide a connection through to Hasting Caves, Strathblane, Dover, Southport and the Far South.

Proposal description

Council is advocating for Bennetts Road to be upgraded to a better standard so it can become another route to access major tourist destinations and other attractions in the region.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025, Council's Economic Development Strategy 2015–2020* and infrastructure plans.

Proposal outcomes

- Improved road network through upgraded infrastructure for tourists and residents and for business and industry sector use
- Increased accessibility to significant tourist destinations and locations
- Improved road safety
- Increased business activity and employment
- Upgraded infrastructure to complement other Project outcomes

C) NARROWS ROAD

This road is a vital transport link for the aquaculture industry sector. It is located 50 kilometres south of Huonville at Strathblane. Vehicles that use this road include long heavy vehicles.

The road is a narrow and winding road and passes through undulating terrain. The road has a history of vehicle accidents and fatalities. It is 5.kilometres in length with an unsealed section of 3.133 kilometres.

Proposal description

Reconstruction of the road is required including stabilisation, widening, sealing, realignment, drainage works and installation of guard rails to meet current standards.

Proposal cost

\$3.5 million

Proposal commencement

Construction works can commence following the completion of design and administration requirements.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025, Council's Economic Development Strategy 2015–2020* and infrastructure plans.

Proposal outcomes

- Improved road safety
- Improved road network through upgraded infrastructure
- Upgraded infrastructure
- Increased accessibility to industry, increased business activity and employment

D) NORTH HUON ROAD

This road provides an important transport link to Huonville through Judbury for the tourism, aquaculture and timber industry sectors. Located on the northern side of the Huon River it runs parallel to Glen Huon Road to the south of the river.

Council is currently solely responsible for maintaining the road from the Judbury intersection to Ranelagh (10.273 kilometres in length). It is a winding road consisting of gravel and sealed sections that need upgrading to meet the demands of increased residential and commercial development in that area, and through traffic that is generating more use of the road.

Emergency management

The road forms part of an alternative route if the Huon River bridge is not available to be used by vehicles due to bushfire, flood or another emergency issue. Therefore, it is essential the road is therefore in a good condition (risk management issue).

Infrastructure limitations

Although the road can be considered essential infrastructure for the above reasons, it has limitations which reflect the standard of its infrastructure. This includes that it is load limited to 20t and has a single lane bridge, so that only one vehicle at a time can use the bridge.

Proposal description**North Huon Road and bridge**

The unsealed section of this road is 4.71 kilometres. This section of road requires:

- Realigning, reshaping, widening and sealing
- Installation of new drainage works and guard rails
- Replacement of the single lane bridge with a dual lane bridge

Proposal cost

\$6 million (including bridge upgrade)

Proposal commencement

Construction works can commence following the completion of design and administration requirements.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025*, Council's *Economic Development Strategy 2015–2020* and infrastructure plans.

Proposal outcomes

- Alternative emergency management route in better condition that can cater for heavy vehicles and increasing vehicle use
- Improved road safety through upgraded infrastructure
- Increased accessibility to tourist attractions and industries
- Increased business activity and employment
- Upgraded infrastructure will complement other Project outcome

E) LUNE RIVER ROAD

Council advocates for upgrades to this road to improve access to the Far South including Ida Bay Railway.

This road needs upgrading to a better standard for tourists, residents and business operators and industry to use so they have improved access to key tourist destinations and other locations in this area of the Far South.

F) SOUTH CAPE ROAD

The South Cape Road is located 80 kilometres from Huonville and is the main route to this part of the Far South of the Huon Valley.

Proposal description

Council advocates for this road to be upgraded to a better standard for tourists, residents and business operators and industry to use so they have improved access to tourist destinations, other attractions and locations in this area of the Far South.

Upgrading sections of this road would include road realignment, reshaping and widening and road drainage works.

Proposal cost estimate:

\$2.5 million

Proposal commencement

On completion of the design and construction specifications.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025*, Council's *Economic Development Strategy 2015–2020* and infrastructure plans.

Proposal outcomes for Lune River Road and South Cape Road

Upgrading the roads will:

- Improve the Far South road infrastructure for tourists and residents and for business and industry sector use
- Increase accessibility to significant tourist destinations and locations
- Improve road safety
- Increase business activity and generate employment
- Complement tourism proposals

G) MOUNTAIN RIVER ROAD/ HUON HIGHWAY INTERSECTION, GROVE

Located 10 kilometres north of Huonville, the Huon Highway and Mountain River Road intersection is a four way intersection which poses a risk to vehicles and pedestrians as vehicles attempt to merge with vehicles travelling at high speed on a high volume, high speed State Highway.

This intersection has very similar safety and volume aspects to the – Summerleas Road Interchange prior to its upgrade. The intersection is located in a growing residential area.

Near the intersection are informal school and public bus stops, a shop and fuel station. Children need to use school buses near this busy intersection on school days.

In addition to being a high usage, high volume and high speed State Highway, the intersection has a range of conflicting features. The intersection lacks:

- Adequate turning lanes
- Deceleration and acceleration lanes
- Designated bus interchange areas
- Public Lighting
- Safe pedestrian crossing
- Structured parking for commuters

Consideration should be given to the inclusion of long term parking for commuters following consultation with surrounding land owners.

The proposal is a clear investment in infrastructure which will assist in addressing the vehicle and pedestrian safety issues, at the same time supporting the current and fast growing economic development of the area and region.

Proposal description

This proposal will reduce the high risk at the Huon Highway and Mountain River Road intersection.

The proposal requires provision for community consultation, completion of design and construction specifications and construction works. There are a number of possible technical solutions for the proposal with the total cost dependent on the option selected.

Proposal cost estimate

\$2.5 million

Proposal commencement

Constriction following completion of community consultation, design and construction specifications and regulatory approvals.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025*, Council's *Economic Development Strategy 2015–2020* and infrastructure plans.

Proposal outcomes

- A safe road and pedestrian environment
- Reduce a high risk road and pedestrian interchange to a lower risk
- Provide facilities for structured parking, drop off and bus interchange areas
- Improved capacity to cater for the increasing use of the highway in this location





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7. TOURISM PROJECTS

A) FRANKLIN EVAPORATORS

Council strongly advocates for the re-development of the Franklin Evaporators as it will be a key development in the revitalisation of the 'Franklin Foreshore'. The re-development of the site will contribute to the inherent life and character of the town which is embraced by the community, whilst providing a feasible commercial re-use of the land.

It will bridge a gap in our current market for hotel style accommodation and conference facilities. Overall, the development in conjunction with the foreshore re-development would transform the site into an active riverfront precinct.

Proposal description

Centrally located in the Huon Valley lies Franklin's old apple evaporator shed, once a mainstay of industry which has not been operational since the early 2000's. A development approval for a mixed-use development, re-using and adapting the existing buildings, was approved by Council in 2016.

The *Franklin Foreshore Master Plan* demonstrates how the Franklin Evaporators re-development is integral to the foreshore re-development, extending from the Huon Rowing Club to the Wooden Boat Centre. The re-development of the foreshore forms part of a broader strategic plan to link Franklin to Huonville as part of the Shared Pathway Project.

These projects combined will contribute towards a thriving activity hub with a range of economic, environmental and community benefits.

The Evaporator Sheds re-development has been noted in the Accommodation Supply Analysis study prepared by TRC Tourism Pty Ltd and MCA for the Office of the Coordinator-General (Tasmanian Government) released in October 2018, as a key development that will influence the market in terms of demand and supply. The study states:

"The 22-suite hotel will be a significant boost to the regional accommodation portfolio sitting on the water's edge on the Huon River. Its proximity to the tourism infrastructure in Franklin, and Huonville as well as the gateway to the south provides a strong location."

This accommodation supply analysis highlighted a shortage in 4 star and above accommodation that can be booked for larger groups, as well as a shortage of conference facilities. The scale and design of the Franklin Evaporators will lend it to the 4 to 4.5- star self-drive markets and provide a facility for functions and events.

By addressing the need for this scale of accommodation, more visitors will have the opportunity to stay for longer, enabling them to visit more tourist attractions and locations. Likewise, by delivering these accommodation services, the development will broaden the range of visitors that will come to the Huon Valley.

Overall the project will strengthen the local economy and revitalise Franklin as an activity hub and as a place to visit.

Proposal commencement

Council strongly advocates Federal Government support be provided for this important project.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with Council's *Strategic Plan 2015–2025* and *Economic Development Strategy 2015–2020*. The mixed use development has been architecturally designed and targets a category of accommodation that has been identified as a gap in the tourism/visitor accommodation market. The development sensitively adapts the existing shed buildings in a way that reveals the history and stories of the site. The development will provide for:

- 22 suite hotel with each room overlooking the Huon River
- Commercial tenancies
- Micro-brewery that will include a bar and lounge with capacity for 30 to 40 patrons
- Cafe with space for up to 80 patrons with potential for use as a conference facility

Rowing Museum and history display space

The project is integral to, and will complement the Shared Pathway Project between Franklin and Huonville. This pathway will have accessible features and will bring numerous benefits to the Huon Valley, both to tourists and local residents. Likewise, the expansion of the marina will enhance economic benefits and activities of the area and region.

Proposal outcomes

The proposal will deliver a key tourism complex in the Huon Valley that will:

- Provide high quality visitor accommodation and conference facilities
- Promote and recognise the history of the site and building fabric
- Revitalise the Franklin foreshore
- Enhance wooden boat interests and activities
- Provide an integral part of re-development of the precinct
- Complement the shared pathway link to Huonville
- Complement other Council proposals for which funding is sought
- Deliver a key regional tourism complex for the Huon Valley
- Generate employment

B) HASTINGS CAVES AND THERMAL SPRINGS

Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs is located approximately 90 minutes south of Hobart.

Council advocates for further development and expansion of the Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs to broaden its appeal to attract more visitors to the Far South. The Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs is a major tourist attraction in Huon Valley attracting approximately 46,000 visitors per year, making it second to the region's major drawcard, Tahune Adventures.

Council strongly supports development of a Master Plan for the Hastings Cave and Thermal Springs redevelopment work for this purpose. The Master Plan would consider a range of different development opportunities in and around the Hastings Caves State Reserve area to provide a framework for further expansion.

Proposal description

The site is located on State Reserve land and provides a variety of experiences, from relaxing in the warm waters of a thermal spring pool, walking in the rich forests of the reserve and providing opportunities for guided tours through Newdegate Cave,

one of the largest dolomite caves in the southern hemisphere.

However, due to a combination of constraints, in particular its distance from high visitation areas and proximity to Hobart, the site is restricted in reaching its full market potential.

There is scope to expand and revitalise the sites' buildings, pool and visitor amenities to bring them up to date with modern visitor expectations. Addressing the scope of redevelopment of the site through a Master Plan is supported.

Council has acknowledged greater capacity for marketing the Hastings Cave experience and is contributing funding towards an augmented reality installation for its promotion. This installation will focus on attracting local visitors to the caves as well as link in with other augmented reality installations across Tasmania to attract interstate and international visitors (see further proposal below).

Proposal commencement

Council strongly advocates funding be provided for further development and expansion of the Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs, and for a Master Plan to guide that redevelopment, so this redevelopment can occur as soon as practicable.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with Council's Strategic Plan 2015–2025 and Economic Development Strategy 2015–2020.

To support the Tasmanian Government, through its Parks and Wildlife Service to develop a Master Plan for the rejuvenation of its Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs site. Specifics for this proposal will be determined by the relevant agencies.

Proposal outcomes

Renewal and expansion of the Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs through activation of this proposal will:

- Provide for redevelopment of a key tourism site
- Attract more visitors to the site and other Far South locations
- Broaden appeal of the site as a key tourism destination
- Generate investment and employment
- Encourage visitors to stay longer in the Huon Valley
- Provide for additional tourism related services
- Provide greater marketing potential and exposure for the region
- Complement other Council proposals

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C) ICONIC WALK

Council advocates for the Huon Valley to be selected as the next Iconic Walk destination. An Iconic Walk in the Huon Valley would be a walking experience that is the envy of the world. For this to occur infrastructure support for this proposal is necessary.

The Huon Valley has many varied landscapes that are important locations that contribute positively to Tasmania's long term tourism future. Submissions were put forward as part of the State Government's Expression of Interest for potential sites that could become the next multi-day Iconic Walk destination.

Proposal description

The Huon Valley is home to beautiful and largely undisturbed landscapes and seascapes, Aboriginal and European cultural heritage, and Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Areas. The Huon Valley region has a point of difference due to its unique rainforest, dry forest and button grass plains and lakes. The area is also located only an hour from the Hobart Airport.

The region offers all of the natural key factors for key walking experiences. The Iconic Walk proposal would suit this form of environmentally sensitive tourism in the Huon Valley region, and give visitors the opportunity to engage and experience the landscape of the region more.

Having an Iconic Walk will provide for a range of new interesting experiences for visitors and others such as the opportunity to learn more about:

- The history of the region, Aboriginal and European cultural heritage
- Current and former industries such as whaling, fishing, boat building, mining and forestry
- Stories and the history of explorers, sealers, convicts and early settlers
- Flora collected by French and English scientists in the 18th and 19th centuries
- White bellied sea eagles, hooded plovers, wedge tailed eagles, burrowing crayfish, live-bearing sea stars, Tasmanian devils, wallabies, echidnas, whales, seals and many others.

Proposal cost

New infrastructure to support this proposal is estimated to be upwards of \$20 million which has been committed by the State Government.

Proposal commencement

Council is strongly advocating for the Huon Valley to be selected as the next Iconic Walk destination as soon as practicable.

Proposal specifics

The proposal is consistent with *Council's Strategic Plan 2015–2025* and *Economic Development Strategy 2015–2020*. In accordance with Parks and Wildlife's *Strategic Plan 2018–2021*, an Iconic Walk in the Huon Valley aligns with the Strategic Plan Goal 1 of that plan by providing 'inspiring and enjoyable experiences for visitors'.

Project outcomes

- Deliver additional eco-tourism services to the region
- Enhance tourism activities and visitor experiences in the region
- Provide more healthy recreation and wellbeing opportunities for the community

D) AUGMENTED REALITY 'BEACON' PROPOSAL

Augmented Reality is an emerging and adaptive technology being used in the tourism sector and other sectors to enhance tourism visitor experiences, branding and to generate interest and customer referrals.

Proposal description

This proposal is for Augmented Reality (AR) installations at key locations in the Huon Valley as part of the broader *Tasmanian Visitor Engagement Strategy*.

A Tasmanian developer has provided a proposal to deliver unique AR experiences at key locations across the valley. With the assistance of State Government, the first of these installations will be launched at the Geeveston Visitor Centre.

The AR installations proposed in the Huon Valley are currently as follows:

- An installation highlighting European arrival to Recherche Bay in February 1793. The installation will capture a number of scenes such as the hearth group, the arrival of the French and the British explorers. The location of the installations will leverage off the unique scene-scapes and cultural fabric that defines Recherche Bay.

- An installation located on a site adjacent to the Cockle Creek Road. It will be an historical re-creation of the scientific base at Bennetts Point showcasing its global significance today from a historical, ecological and cultural perspective. The installation will be located on the bank opposite the original base location.
- An installation located near the present day Cygnet Sailing Club that will be an historical re-creation of Wilson and Sons original boat yard to give homage to their unique craftsmanship. The marrying of craftsmanship, engineering, innovative design and an intimate knowledge of the raw timber product has been passed down over four generations of boat-builders.

Proposal cost:

Up to \$250,000

Funding of up to \$250,000 is sought to complete the remaining projects.

Proposal commencement

Other AR projects are development ready once funding is obtained.

Proposal outcomes

- Boost the economy by attracting more visitors to strategic locations
- Promote destination tourism
- Referrals through word of mouth and social media
- Branding and identity benefits
- Enhance visitor experiences through historical learnings

E) IDA BAY RAILWAY

The Ida Bay Railway site is located in Southern Tasmania. The railway was historically used to cart limestone from a quarry above Ida Bay to a jetty at Deep Hole, Southport. The railway track runs through bushland and across buttongrass plains from the Ida Bay station and along the banks of Ida Bay and Lune River Estuary. When the historical use of the railway ceased, the State Government purchased the line and leases it out to private operators as a tourist experience.

The Ida Bay Railway has operated in the past as one of Huon Valley’s key attractions, attracting numbers of up to 7,000 to 10,000 each year. These numbers however, have slowly been declining. The future of this significant heritage attraction is contingent upon receiving the funds required to restore the railway infrastructure and building amenities so that the site continues to operate safely.

Council strongly supports the restoration of the railway infrastructure together with the redevelopment of the site to ensure the long term sustainability of a unique and heritage significant tourist experience.

Proposal description

The Ida Bay Railway site, rail and buildings are a State Government owned heritage asset. The Ida Bay railway is currently not operational as it requires urgent restoration. Addressing the restoration of the railway and rolling stock is vital to the ongoing operation of the site.

To support the attraction, the existing site infrastructure and amenities, including cafe, accommodation and picnic areas require renewal and restorations to bring them up to date with modern visitor expectations and to make them compliant with relevant regulations.

Proposal commencement

Council strongly advocates funding be provided for the restoration and development of the Ida Bay site, so this redevelopment can occur as soon as practicable. The restoration and redevelopment of the site are estimated to require \$3 million to undertake the required works.

Proposal specifics

Track Restoration

- The restoration of the railway track is paramount to the ongoing operation of the Ida Bay Railway Site. Urgent works are required to repair track damage and raise the overall standard of the existing track to meet Tasmanian Rail Safety requirements.
- Locomotive Restoration
- The repair and upgrade of the rolling stock is required to ensure it meets relevant safety regulations and visitor expectations.
- Existing site infrastructure and amenities
- Rebuilding of the workshop and café is required to accommodate a large dining room and storeroom.
- Extensive renovations and restorations to the accommodation facilities are required to make them structurally sound and compliant with building regulations.
- Extensive renovations to the public amenities are required, including improvements to plumbing and general building upgrades.
- Expansion of the picnic area is required, including development of a BBQ area.

Proposal outcomes

Restoration and Renewal of the Ida Bay Site through activation of this proposal will:

- Provide for redevelopment of a key tourism experience
- Protect and preserve heritage values and significance of the site
- Attract more visitors to the site and other Far South locations Generate investment and employment
- Encourage visitors to stay longer in the Huon Valley

Image: Far South Photography





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