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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

17 March 2022

### **General Manager Contract Continued**

Last night at its special meeting, the Huon Valley Council supported the recommendation to offer continued employment to General Manager Jason Browne.

"In the contract, continued employment is defined as subject to a satisfactory performance review during probation. Mr Browne's review has come back positive," Mayor Bec Enders said.

"On behalf of my fellow Councillors, we congratulate Mr Browne on confirming the continuation of his contract. We look forward to working with him so that he can provide the leadership and direction to implement the priorities and strategic directions of Council."

The contract term of employment is for a period of five years. Mr Browne's contract commenced on 21 September 2021.

Mr Browne said he is looking forward to continuing to work with Councillors, Council staff and the community to achieve great outcomes collectively.

"I have spent a significant amount of time touring the Huon Valley and I am inspired by the passion and creativity in the people I have met. I can see clearly that they deeply care about their place and community.

"It is this commitment and dedication that provides a strong foundation on which to address the challenges we face as a community and to genuinely engage so that we can achieve our current and future priorities."

Mayor Enders said the General Manager Performance Review Panel will meet monthly with Mr Browne and report to the full Council on a regular basis through closed sessions in line with Local Government meeting regulations.

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“The Panel’s roles and functions include monitoring the performance of the General Manager and undertaking the annual performance review in accordance with the employment contract.”

Executive Director of Blackadder Associates, Stephen Blackadder, was engaged late last year to work with and provide guidance to the Council in ensuring that the roles and functions of the Council were being undertaken using contemporary human resources (HR) practice.

Mayor Enders said the Tasmanian Audit Office report, *Council general manager recruitment, appointment and performance assessment*, dated 12 October 2021, also identified the importance of the local government sector using contemporary HR practice.

“A Personal Performance Agreement for the General Manager will guide the Council in assessing and measuring the General Manager’s performance,” she said.

The agreement includes required core management attributes, the annual projects and organisational priorities to be delivered and actions to support personal development over the agreement period.

“Working with Mr Browne, this Council is already addressing a number of key challenges that lie ahead for the Huon Valley. We have made significant investments in forward planning projects to ensure that we remain sustainable and to enhance the liveability of this region for the community,” Mayor Enders said.

**For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300**

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