

**Next Council Meetings:  
16 March 2026 and 20 April 2026 at 10am in the Council Chambers**

## From the General Manager - John Brown

What a fantastic job they have done with the new St Helens Police Station, yes the external appearance could be considered 'functional', 'utilitarian' or be given some other descriptor but you need to look beyond external appearances. As they say, you shouldn't judge a book by its cover.... Having attended the official opening and then a couple of weeks later been shown around the new facility, I was incredibly impressed with the thinking, care and attention which has been given to what you can't see behind those brick walls. So many small details have been considered in the internal design and layout process to provide a station that is not only functional but also a workplace which is attractive and a pleasure to be in. Talking with the outgoing Inspector, Luke Manhood, it is obvious that Luke and the local Tasmania Police team have had to play a leading role in achieving what they have. There is no doubt that having such an attractive place to work will assist in recruiting police to the area which is always a challenge in regional/remote areas, after all, the old station wasn't the most inviting place to work or visit. On a related note, Luke is moving on to a new role in the Hobart area and we wish him all the best for the future. As a Council we have a close working relationship with Tasmania Police and Luke has been an important part of this for the last three years. I am sure that this will continue with the new Inspector.

## St Helens Welcomes New University Study Hub



Photo: Hon Andrew Giles MP, alongside the Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, the Hon Rebecca White MP and Kaitlin Roach from RDA Tasmania

The official opening of the Country Universities Centre (CUC) Eastern Tasmania in St Helens was an exciting milestone for our region. The new Centre, located at 48 Cecilia Street, St Helens, marks an important step in giving local people more opportunities to study and learn right here on the East Coast.

As part of the Australian Government's Regional University Study Hubs (RUSH) initiative, the Centre gives students the chance to study with any Australian university or vocational education provider without having to move away from home. This means higher education is more affordable, easier to access and focused on the needs of our community.

The opening was attended by the Hon Andrew Giles MP, Federal Minister for Skills and Training, alongside the Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, Minister for Jobs and Training the Hon Felix Ellis MP, the Hon Rebecca White MP and Mayor Mick Tucker. Their presence highlighted the importance of regional education and strong collaboration between all levels of government.

The Centre provides study spaces, technology and Education Coordinators who offer academic workshops, one-on-one support and face-to-face tutorials.



Photo: CUC Co-ordinator Leah Page, BODEC chair John Brown and Mayor Mick Tucker.

Council congratulates everyone involved in making this facility a reality. It's a huge boost for lifelong learning, local workforce development and helping young people achieve their goals. Having access to quality education here in Break O'Day also helps keep talent in our region and builds a stronger future for our community.

# Aquatic Facility Survey - Thank You Break O'Day, A Strong Community Response

Council would like to sincerely thank everyone who completed the Break O'Day Aquatic Facility survey. Community participation has been outstanding, with 860 responses received, growing from around 4% to more than 10% of our community. This is the highest level of participation Council has ever received for a community engagement project, reflecting strong community interest in this important conversation.

An aquatic facility is a major investment for any regional municipality. It is essential that Council understands

what our community wants, values and expects before making decisions. Your feedback will directly inform whether and how an aquatic facility could be delivered in Break O'Day and which features, services and priorities matter most.

Council will now collate the data, with a draft report to be prepared and presented in April. We look forward to sharing the findings with the community once this work is complete. This is a collaborative process and your input ensures we move forward together.

## Falmouth's New Public Toilets Are Open

A big thank you to our local community. Your feedback and input helped shape the design and location, ensuring the facility suits the township and blends respectfully with its natural surroundings. Thank you for your patience during construction. We hope this new facility is a welcome addition for both residents and visitors alike.



## Kinder Break O'Day

This is a gentle reminder that small changes in how we speak to each other can make a big difference.

The tile below shows how a simple shift in tone can turn an everyday moment into a kinder one. By choosing

our words with care, we can help make Break O'Day a more welcoming and respectful place for everyone.

Let's keep kindness front of mind — one conversation at a time.



Want to help make Break O'Day kinder?

Start with your words.

We're here for you and we're community too.



We're All in This Together

## IN BRIEF

### STAGE 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS – SCAMANDER & LADY BARRON

Stage 1 water restrictions have come into effect in Scamander and Lady Barron due to ongoing dry conditions and peak summer demand putting pressure on local water supplies.

As advised by TasWater, residents and visitors are asked to reduce non-essential water use to ensure there is enough water available for essential needs.

Stage 1 restrictions aim to reduce non-essential water use by 20% by encouraging more mindful, water-wise habits.

Small changes can make a big difference:

- Take shorter showers
- Use the half-flush on toilets
- Be mindful of outdoor water use

The restrictions will remain in place until further notice.

Every drop counts – even saving just 10 litres per person per day helps protect local water supplies.

For up-to-date system information and water-saving tips, visit: [www.taswater.com.au/news/water-supply-status](http://www.taswater.com.au/news/water-supply-status)

### NEW ST HELENS POLICE STATION OPENS

Break O'Day recently welcomed the opening of the new \$7.5 million St Helens Police Station on Annie Street, next to the hospital — a big upgrade for local policing services. The new station will support St Helens, Beaumaris, Scamander and the wider East Coast community.

The modern building replaces the old 1975 station and includes dedicated interview rooms, secure storage and more space for police to work efficiently. The station also has meeting and training spaces and improved facilities for working with other emergency services. These improvements make it easier for police to respond quickly, safely, and effectively to our community's needs.

Council thanks Tasmania Police and everyone involved in making this project happen. These upgrades help make Break O'Day a safer, stronger, and more resilient community for everyone.

## Strong Community Turnout for Mobile Tower Information Session

Telstra and Amplitel have thanked the community following a public information session held on Wednesday 25th February at the Portland Memorial Hall in St Helens.

Community members were invited to attend the session, which provided them the opportunity to learn more about the telecommunications project and ask questions directly of project representatives. Telstra and Amplitel will be constructing a 25m tower at the Telstra Exchange on the corner of Bowen and Quail Streets in the St Helens CBD.

Attendees were able to review project information, access handouts and supporting material, as well as speak one-on-one with Telstra and Amplitel staff throughout the session.

The meeting was a valuable opportunity for local residents to engage directly with Telstra and Amplitel team members and gain clarity about the project.

Telstra's Regional General Manager Michael Patterson said "We welcomed the opportunity to meet directly with the St Helen's community to explain the benefits of the new mobile base station and outline why a centrally located, utility-zoned site was chosen. The site needs to be centrally located to ensure strong, consistent connectivity for residents and visitors. It will also reduce the likelihood of additional towers being required in the future."

Mayor Mick Tucker said Break O'Day Council appreciated Telstra and Amplitel's willingness to meet face-to-face with the community.

"It was encouraging to see so many people take the time to attend, particularly on a public holiday," Mayor Tucker said.

"We appreciate Telstra and Amplitel making themselves available and providing detailed information and handouts so residents could better understand the project."

## Tasman Highway Speed Limit Changes – St Helens

Safer speed limits have been approved for sections of the Tasman Highway in St Helens following a request from Break O'Day Council and a detailed assessment by the Tasmanian Government.

The Commissioner for Transport has endorsed two important changes aimed at improving safety for all road users:

- The existing 60 km/h speed zone north-west of the St Helens township has been extended by approximately 330 metres, covering the Warrens Way intersection and access to St Helens Concrete.
- A 2.6-kilometre section of the Tasman Highway between St Helens Point Road and Medeas Cove Esplanade was transitioned to a safer 50 km/h speed limit.

The review, undertaken by the Department of State Growth, identified a significant number of heavy vehicles turning in and out of Warrens Way and the St Helens Concrete access.

Extending the 60 km/h zone will provide motorists with additional reaction time and reduce the risk of crashes in this busy area.

These changes are part of ongoing efforts to improve road safety across our municipality, supporting safer travel for residents, visitors, freight operators and local businesses.

More information about how speed limits are determined in Tasmania is available on the Department of State Growth website.

## WHAT'S ON

### The Lighthouse - Every Wednesday

Serving the Break O'Day community, The Lighthouse is a safe place where you can enjoy a free cuppa, hot soup and roll, warm beanies and scarves or a friendly chat. Open every Wednesday, 11am-1pm at the Anglican Hall - 56 Cecilia Street, St Helens.

### Break O'Day Chamber of Commerce - Monthly Calendar

The Break O'Day Chamber of Commerce has created a monthly calendar of local events and activities to help showcase what's happening across our region. The Chamber is encouraging local businesses, community groups, and organisations to print and display the calendar to help spread the word. If you'd like to receive future editions, please email the Chamber at [sthelenscoc@gmail.com](mailto:sthelenscoc@gmail.com)

### Tasmanian Disability Inclusion Advisory Council Info Session - Wednesday 11 March 2026

Learn more about the Disability Inclusion Advisory Council, how to apply to be a member or chairperson, ask questions and get help with you application.

St Helens Portland Hall at 2.15-3.15pm.

Register at [www.disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au](http://www.disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au)

### Pyengana Easter Carnival Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 April 2026

Come along for a day of fun, food, and community. Many events including woodchopping and sheep dog trials with raffles and exhibits, food stalls and more!

Pyengana Recreation Grounds, St Columba Falls Road, camping sites available. Gates open 8am for a 9am start. Entry \$5 per person (cash only) For more info, contact Joe Rattray: [joechop@yahoo.com](mailto:joechop@yahoo.com)

### The Craft of an Artist Saturday 4-5 April 2026

"The Craft of an Artist" is being held at The Panorama Hotel between 10am and 4pm each day. Entry to the public for viewing is a donation of a gold coin. The artists that are entering are all residents of Tasmania only. All entries are for sale. For further information contact Keri Sidney on 0419130047 or email to [info@bodartists.com](mailto:info@bodartists.com)

### Bay of Fires Youth Art Prize 2026 - Closes 8 May 2026

Entries are open to children and young people aged 4-18 years. The theme is "No Place Like Home", inviting you to reflect on your connection to place and caring for Country. Entries close 5:00pm, Friday 8 May 2026. FREE ENTRY with over \$1,000 in prizes to be won! For more information, email [buildingblocks@fvnh.org.au](mailto:buildingblocks@fvnh.org.au) or contact Tanya on 0400 002 116.

### LOCAL MARKETS

#### St Helens - Every Saturday

Location alternates between the Portland Hall and the Visitor Information Centre Carpark.

#### St Marys - First Saturday of the month

Held at the St Marys Hall.



**"Never lose a chance of saying  
a kind word"**

**- William Makepeace Thackeray**

## Council Works Reports

- Road resealing program almost completed. Sweeping and linemarking (where required) to follow.
- Road shouldering underway throughout the valley.
- Roadside slashing continues.
- Kerb and footpath vegetation removal continuing.

### Waste tips

- Breakdown cardboard boxes before placing in your recycling bin. This will prevent the contents of your bin jamming and the bin not being fully emptied.
- Batteries should never be disposed of in your general waste or recycling bin. Batteries up to 2kg can be handed to your waste transfer station attendant or placed in the battery drop off bins at your local IGA Supermarket.
- A reminder also to remove lithium batteries from vacuum cleaners and appliances before disposing of them.

### WEED MANAGEMENT

- **Fingal** - Capeweed, broadleaf, thistles, caper spurge, hemlock.
- **Georges Bay Walking Track** – Thistles, broadleaf, African boxthorn.
- **Scamander** - Gorse, Spanish heath, broadleaf.
- **St Marys** - Spanish heath, thistles.

### DOG STATISTICS

JANUARY 2026

Urban Patrols = 19

Beach Patrols = 17

Infringements = 0

Unregistered Dog = 0

Impounded Dogs = 3

## Weed of the Month - pampas grass

Pampas grass is a Declared Pest that spreads aggressively by tiny windblown seeds that grow into very large tussocks. Relatively small numbers persist in parts of Break O'Day despite efforts over the years to eradicate it. In autumn new growth and large pink or white flower heads make pampas easy to spot for control. 'Deadhead' the flowers first by cutting them off carefully to not lose seeds in the wind and bagging them securely. The dense roots can be dug and pulled out if plants are small, or larger ones if you have time

on your hands and need the exercise! Treatment with herbicide is effective for large plants.

For more information on identification, treatment and control look up pampas grasses on the 'declared-weeds-index' at [www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds)



## Have Your Say - Draft Scamander Coastal Hazards and Pathways Adaptation Plan

Council are seeking comments on the Draft Scamander Coastal Hazards and Pathways Adaptation Plan, outlining how our community can better plan for and respond coastal hazards. This Plan is an important step in protecting our coastline, properties and natural environment and your input will help shape the final version.

We encourage all residents and stakeholders to review the draft and share their feedback. There are several ways to provide your comments:

Complete the online comments form by scanning the QR Code below.

Send a written submission to [admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au)

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

Post or deliver your comments to our St Helens office 32-24 Georges Bay Esplanade, St Helens

Submissions close on Sunday, 15 March.

The Draft Plan and supporting reports can be accessed online at [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/current-projects-and-activities/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/current-projects-and-activities/)

All feedback received will be carefully considered to help finalise the Plan.



## Household Hazardous Waste

# Drop-off Times



Saturday 7 March

1:30pm to 4pm

Eagle Street, St Helens



It's FREE

Funded by Tasmania's waste levy