

## **Mayors Report – January 2019**

Most of you are no doubt aware that council has resolved to undertake an Elector Poll, which will be conducted by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to seek the views of our community regarding a merger with Sorell Council. When I say 'community', I mean it in the broadest sense: our residents, rate payers and those entitled to be listed on the General Manager Roll. Councillors feel that the community needs to have its say on this issue.

The Poll is likely to be undertaken in March 2019. This gives both Council and the Electoral Commission sufficient time to ensure that people are informed and have had the opportunity to ensure they are registered to vote, and to avoid an election within the festive season.

The Poll will be open for 4 weeks in accordance with standard Electoral Commission procedures and we would hope the outcome will be known by early April.

I would greatly encourage all of you who are eligible to vote, to ensure you are registered, either with the Electoral Commission or on Council's General Manager's Role, whichever is applicable. It is important as many people as possible vote in order to provide an accurate view of community sentiment.

We will write to all rate payers, residents and those listed on the General Manager's Roll with more information in January.

Council recently received two petitions from a community member, one seeking a public meeting to discuss a merger with Sorell Council and the other seeking an Elector Poll on the issue. Council has already acted off its own bat to conduct an Elector Poll. The petition for a public meeting will be considered at Council's January meeting, however, it is likely that the public meeting will be held in early February.

Council was successful in receiving a grant for the construction of five social housing dwellings in Pearls Court, Nubeena. Unfortunately, the project was at risk due to costs of a suitable development being significantly greater than the initial grant. We have had some extremely positive discussions with representatives of Housing Tasmania and it now looks like the project will be appropriately funded and is back on track. This project has been a strategic priority for Council for some time now and I am particularly pleased that we are now close to a very positive outcome. I would like to thank all those involved, from Housing Tasmania and council staff for their diligent and positive approach to this project.

Indeed, there are a lot of positive things going on in Tasman at the moment and I look forward to getting on with it in 2019. With that, I'd like to thank all of our councillors, our talented and hardworking staff and all those in the community for their role in making Tasman the wonderful place that it is. I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to working with you in 2019.



**Kelly Spaulding**  
**Mayor**