

# **FEBRUARY 2026 – WEST COAST COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING OPEN AGENDA**

5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 Commencing 5:00pm

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## GENERAL MANAGER'S CERTIFICATION

### Qualified Persons Advice – Section 65 *Local Government Act 1993*

I certify that with respect to all advice, information and recommendations provided to Council with this Agenda:

The advice, information and recommendations are given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation; and

Where any advice is given directly to Council by a person who does not have the required qualifications or experience, that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person.

Councillors are reminded of their obligations under Part 5 of the *Local Government Act 1993* in respect to Interests.

### **NOTES:**

S65(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires the General Manager to ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council, or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.

S65(2) states a council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless –

- a) the General Manager certifies, in writing –
  - i. that such advice was obtained; and
  - ii. that the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
- b) a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the General Manager's certificate.



**Scott Riley**  
GENERAL MANAGER

## NOTICE OF MEETING

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – r. 9(1)*

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of the West Coast Council will be held at the West Coast Council Chambers, 11 Sticht Street Queenstown on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 5:00pm.**

## RECORDING OF MEETING

In accordance with *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* the public is **advised that the proceedings of meetings of Council will be recorded on digital media** to assist in the preparation of minutes, and to ensure that a true and accurate account of debate and discussion of meetings is available.

## CONDUCT AT A COUNCIL MEETING

All persons attending Council meetings as part of the gallery are to behave in a respectful and considerate manner and not engage in conduct or language that could be perceived as offensive, defamatory or threatening toward others.

Individuals that do not adhere to this direction may be asked to leave the chamber.

Councillors are also reminded that their behaviour is governed by the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, Regulation 49 (Suspension from meeting)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The West Coast Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

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**RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/ LEAVE OF ABSENCE***Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025; Regulation 10(3)(a)*

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Apology</b>	<b>Approved Leave</b>	<b>Non-Attendance</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Mayor Shane Pitt				
Deputy Mayor Robert Butterfield				
Cr Kerry Graham				
Cr Liz Hamer				
Cr Vikki Iwanicki				
Cr Dwayne Jordan				
Cr Annie McKay				
Cr Lindsay Newman				
Cr Scott Stringer				

<b>Staff</b>	<b>Attended</b>
General Manager	
Manager Organisational Performance	
Director Infrastructure & Operations	

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

*Local Government Act 1993 s. 48-51*

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - 10(3)(f) & 10 (8):*

Councillors and staff must declare any pecuniary or conflict of interest in any agenda item.

Councillor/Staff	Item Number	Subject

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**39/26 STRAHAN WATERFRONT COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP**

<b>Title:</b>	Strahan Waterfront Community Working Group
<b>Author:</b>	General Manager
<b>Appendices:</b>	1. Correspondence 2. Strahan Waterfront Report January 2026 3. Strahan Waterfront Advisory Group

**Recommendation**

That Council

1. Endorses 2 Councillors to participate on the Strahan Waterfront Community working group.
  - a. Councillor ..... as the group Chair
  - b. Councillor .....
2. Endorses the following representatives to be invited to participate in the Strahan Waterfront Community working group to resolve design and operational issues.

<b>REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE FOR</b>	<b>ROLE</b>
Neil Gillies	Petuna Group	Member
Henry Batista	CEO Huon Aquaculture	Member
Mark Ryan	CEO Tassal	Member
Brian Gardiner	Recreational Fisherman Association	Member
Trevor Norton	The Navigators	Member
Geoff Evers	Gordon River Cruises	Member
Guy Grining	World Heritage Cruises	Member
Sean Gerrity	Community / South West Expeditions	Member
Jason Hart	Community / Owner/ operator of the LouNita (Cray Fishing boat) and representative on behalf of Southlander Fisheries	Member
Brendan Morrison	Morrison's Huon Pine Sawmill	Member
Jo Anne Kerr	Community / Business Owner	Member
Aaron Khokhar	West Coast Council	Member / Construction Lead
Scott Riley	West Coast Council, General Manager	Member / Administration Lead

**PURPOSE**

To endorse the invitation of expanded industry and community members to participate in the Strahan Waterfront Community Working Group.

**SUMMARY**

This report seeks to provide Council with the opportunity to confirm the participation in the Strahan Waterfront Community working group.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the January 2026 ordinary meeting of West Coast Council consideration was given to a report addressing the concerns of a petition submitted to West Coast Council which subsequently saw a public meeting held in Strahan on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January.

The report was supported seeking to activate wharf user consultation.

Given the correspondence received just prior to the January Ordinary meeting and the need to reflect on a possible expansion of the group to acknowledge the expanded community interest post the petition public meeting and information session this report has been prepared.

## **DETAILS**

The background details to the previous Strahan waterfront advisory group is contained in the attached minutes to this report showing two meetings held in August and November 2024.

At the meeting held on the 1st of August 2024 the minutes recorded the West Coast General Manager as advising the following.

### *Strahan Wharf Discussions*

*1. Cr Graham (WCC) noted that when Council was first asked to take on the wharf it was agreed that engagement with wharf users was imperative to forward positive outcomes.*

*2. General Manager (WCC) emphasized that the group was not about the broader Strahan Waterfront Precinct Project but rather the wharf usage and relating considerations.*

Given the most recent outcomes the Strahan Waterfront precinct project is now clearly impacting the working port considerations the two cannot be separated. Principally some initial design feedback considerations were not taken on board and are adversely impacting traffic movements on the wharf.

To this effect the two issues are now entwined and need whole of community input to resolve matters is necessary.

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The recommendation proposed below is to add value to the existing Strahan Waterfront Advisory Group by expanding to include some additional members so the complexity of the conflicts are resolved to the best possible outcomes for all.

REPRESENTATIVE	REPRESENTATIVE FOR	ROLE
Councillor ...	West Coast Council	Chair
Councillor ...	West Coast Council	Member
Neil Gillies	Petuna Group	Member
Henry Batista	CEO Huon Aquaculture	Member
Mark Ryan	CEO Tassal	Member
Brian Gardiner	Recreational Fisherman Association	Member
Trevor Norton	The Navigators	Member
Geoff Evers	Gordon River Cruises	Member
Guy Grining	World Heritage Cruises	Member
Sean Gerrity	Community / South West Expeditions	Member
Jason Hart	Community / Owner/ operator of the LouNita (Cray Fishing boat) and representative on behalf of Southlander Fisheries	Member
Brendan Morrison	Morrison's Huon Pine Sawmill	Member
Jo Anne Kerr	Community / Business owner	Member
Aaron Khokhar	West Coast Council	Member / Construction Lead
Scott Riley	West Coast Council, General Manager	Member / Administration Lead

Traffic access is critical to the working port however the access will seriously influence change to the project, and this will require community endorsement as it may involve additional accesses being considered.

It is intended to reach out to all proposed nominees to test participation availability and date for a meeting in the week commencing the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2026.

A draft term of reference and first meeting agenda will be tabled for consideration at the time of the meeting considering this report.

#### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

Significant strategic implications exist with ensuring this advisory committee works for the best outcomes for the community.

#### **STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

No significant statutory implications exist with establishing this revised working group to meet the needs of higher community consultation and improved project outcomes.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

No immediate policy implications exist with receiving and actioning the revised working group to improve project outcomes.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No significant financial implications exist immediately in actioning the revised working group to improve project outcomes. However, should the actions expected from the working group not respect and impact on the current contracts in place for works this may incur unknown costs for Council and ratepayers. This would be in addition to the existing investment expanding into unfunded costs and project rework.

**RISK IMPLICATIONS**

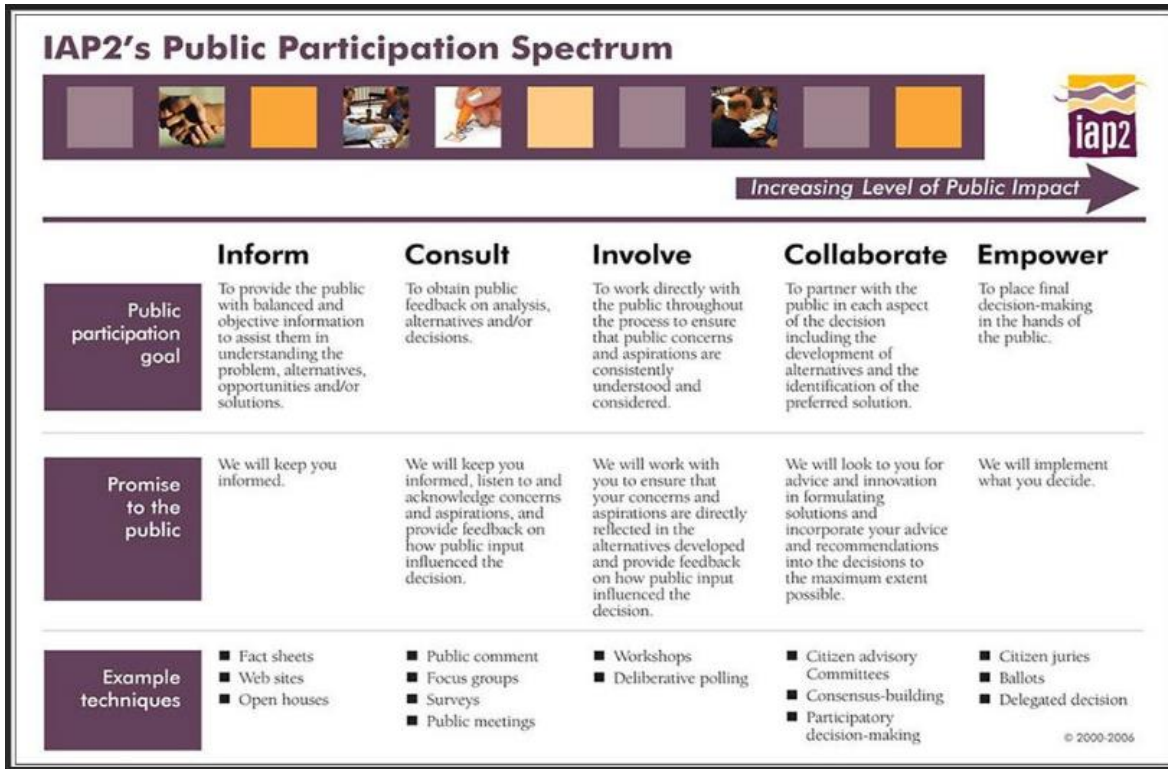
Within Council's Risk Appetite	May Exceed Council's Risk Appetite	Exceeds Council's Risk Appetite

RISK	ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Organisational Objectives and Strategy		
Council Workforce and Contractor Health & Safety		
Council Culture and Compliance		
Environment and Sustainability		
Council Reputation		
Community Engagement		
Council's Finances		
Delivery of Council Services & Capabilities		
Council Business Services Continuity		

**Consultation and Communication Process**

Ongoing consultation has been confirmed to take the IAP2 model.

The phases of the consultation will take the following forms as the project is reinvented to meet the competing needs across the site and integrated community activation.



The Strahan Waterfront Community Working Group would ideally inform, consult, involve and collaborate on solutions.

**Recommendation**

That Council

3. Endorses 2 Councillors to participate on the Strahan Waterfront Community working group.
  - c. Councillor ..... as the group Chair
  - d. Councillor .....
4. Endorses the following representatives to be invited to participate in the Strahan Waterfront Community working group to resolve design and operational issues.

<b>REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE FOR</b>	<b>ROLE</b>
Neil Gillies	Petuna Group	Member
Henry Batista	CEO Huon Aquaculture	Member
Mark Ryan	CEO Tassal	Member
Brian Gardiner	Recreational Fisherman Association	Member
Trevor Norton	The Navigators	Member
Geoff Evers	Gordon River Cruises	Member
Guy Grining	World Heritage Cruises	Member
Sean Gerrity	Community / South West Expeditions	Member
Jason Hart	Community / Owner/ operator of the LouNita (Cray Fishing boat) and representative on behalf of Southlander Fisheries	Member
Brendan Morrison	Morrison's Huon Pine Sawmill	Member
Jo Anne Kerr	Community / Business Owner	Member
Aaron Khokhar	West Coast Council	Member / Construction Lead
Scott Riley	West Coast Council, General Manager	Member / Administration Lead

**Moved:****Seconded:****Outcome:**

## **APPENDIX – MINUTES**

# STRAHAN WATERFRONT ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES



Thursday 1 August 2024 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Via TEAMS Meeting Link

## Attendance and Apologies

Member	Representative For	Attendance	Apology
Ciara Spencer	West Coast Council	X	
Liz Hamer	West Coast Council	X	
Kerry Graham	West Coast Council	X	
Sean Gerrity	South West Expeditions	X	
Neil Gillies	Petuna Group		X
Jason Hart	Owner/ operator of the LouNita (Cray Fishing boat) and representative on behalf of Southlander Fisheries	X	
Geoff Evers	Gordon River Cruises	X	
Trevor Norton	The Navigators	X	
Guy Grining	World Heritage Cruises		X

Other organisations, invited to join the group.

Contact	Organisation	Response
Brendan Morrison	Morrison's Huon Pine Sawmill	No response received
Henry Batista CEO	Huon Aquaculture	No response received
Mark Ryan CEO	Tassal	No response received
Brian Gardiner	Recreational Fisherman Association	Declined

## Welcome and Introduction (Ciara Spencer)

Council took over the wharf area at the end of last year. This is part of the broader Strahan Waterfront Precinct Project. The aim of the group is to provide input and guidance from those who use the wharf area. It was reiterated that Local Government operations are heavily regulated and subject to processes in regard to allocated funding and supporting works. It was noted that the slipway works were coming up and a condition report will be required to determine the future works requirements.

## Members introduction (members)

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

## **Strahan Wharf Discussions**

1. Cr Graham (WCC) noted that when Council was first asked to take on the wharf it was agreed that engagement with wharf users was imperative to forward positive outcomes.
2. General Manager (WCC) emphasized that the group was not about the broader Strahan Waterfront Precinct Project but rather the wharf usage and relating considerations.

### Slipway upgrade

3. General Manager (WCC) provided an overview of the slipway upgrade and asked whether there was timing that would create the least disruption.
4. Jason Hart (Fishing Operator) advised that September / October/ November is best with regard to the fisherman's down time.
5. Geoff Evers (GRC) advised their June/ July was their off season, with Dec to March being their peak season and the time when they need the slip to be available. He noted that the current slip cannot be used by them as their boat is too heavy.
6. Seam Gerrity (SWE) advised that it would be best to have the upgrade completed before the summer.
7. General Manager (WCC) advised that the earliest commencement of work would be November/ December. Noting that there are tight timeframes associated with implementing the grant funding.
8. Trevor Norton (TN) highlighted the need for good communication and advance notice of the undertaking of works.
9. Cr Graham advised that any delay in the project timelines will result in increased costs overall that will need to be covered by Council.
10. Sean Gerrity (SWE) advised that there should be a coordinated approach to the relevant wharf users (eg wharf 1 or wharf 2) to minimise impact, he suggested that Shane Lovell will have that user information.
11. General Manager (WCC) advised that Council acquired everything from Tasports on land, saying that Council did not get a full condition report as part of the transfer and asked if the group were aware of any other major challenges.
12. Trevor Norton (TN) asked if the soil will need to be removed before new fuel tanks can be installed. Trevor also has some concerns around refueling, access and timings.
13. General Manager (WCC) said that Council will obtain a copy of the Tasport report to see if testing has been done, saying that WCC need to clarify that in the first instance.
14. Jason Hart (Fishing Operator) advised that a bunker for wash up was required to contain contamination.
15. General Manager (WCC) said that once it has gone to tender we will have a better idea of what is achievable.
16. Sean Gerrity (SWE) asked if the fees raised will go back into the wharf?
17. General Manager (WCC) advised that this financial year, Council will be required to subsidise the wharf, and the fees should be directed back into the wharf.
18. Cr Graham (WCC) advised that Council knew that taking on the wharf would cost Council money, it will be generational to make viable.
19. Trevor Norton (TN) said that some simple upgrades would also assist with recreational vessels, and would also help the fishermen with having to lean over

boats etc. Adding there could be a fee to be charged to visiting vessels to raise revenue.

20. General Manager (WCC) said it is useful to identify potential revenue streams. Council is working with UTAS to see if there is a potential to have a research outpost on the waterfront. This would also provide tourism opportunities.
21. Sean Gerrity (SWE) said that MAST get fees from boat owners and license, perhaps Council should investigate if some money could be back to the wharf that way. He also asked if Tas Helicopters come into the lease area?
22. Geoff Eyers (GRC) said the focus needs to be on the slipway and this is critical to mitigate their business risk, as tourism providers. It also means revenue for Council. It was mentioned that part of the wharf was sinking. The joint between the 2 cruise lines. If there was the ability for a sullage pump facility, that would also be a potential revenue stream. The cruise boat building was in good condition.
23. Trevor Norton (TN) said car parking around the wharf area needed consideration to assist the wharf users with loading/ unloading. Perhaps a permit on the windscreen system?
24. Trevor Norton (TN) offered to do some research on wharf sheeting to assist in making the one-bay berth to a two-bay berth.
25. Cr Hamer (WCC) said that semi-trailers coming into the site need to be safe, perhaps some of the pylons could be removed or made not as high.
26. General Manager (WCC) said it will be useful for the Council Operational team to attend the next meeting to provide a project update.
27. The group agreed to a quarterly meeting.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Quarterly – meeting date to be advised and circulated.

### **Close of Meeting, time being:**

Meeting closed at 4.36pm

## Meeting Action Items

Meeting Date	Item #	Item Description	Who	Status
01/08/2024	10	Source relevant wharf users info from Shane Lovell (eg wharf 1 or wharf 2) to assist with planning around minimising impact on upgrades during works.	WCC	
01/08/2024	12	Council to obtain a copy of the Tasport report to see if soil testing has been done (fuel tanks)	WCC	
01/08/2024	21	Investigate MAST fees from boat owners and license, could be potential revenue for Council.	WCC	
01/08/2024	21	Does Tas Helicopters come into the lease area	WCC	
01/08/2024	22	Investigate if the wharf was sinking between at the joint between the 2 cruise lines terminals.	WCC	
01/08/2024	24	Trevor Norton (TN) offered to do some research on wharf sheeting to assist in making the one-bay berth to a two-bay berth.	Trevor Norton (TN)	
01/08/2024	26	Council Operational team to attend the next meeting to provide a project update.	WCC	

## MATTERS FOR CLOSED MEETING

### *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025; Regulation 17*

A Council may (by absolute majority resolution) close a meeting or part of a meeting when certain matters are being or are to be discussed. The grounds for the closure are to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Section (2) A part of a meeting may be closed to the public when any one or more of the following matters are being, or are to be, discussed at the meeting:

- a) personnel matters, including complaints against an employee of the council and industrial relations matters;
- b) information that, if disclosed, is likely to confer a commercial advantage or impose a commercial disadvantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposes to conduct, business;
- c) commercial information of a confidential nature that, if disclosed, is likely to –
  - i. prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it; or
  - ii. confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council; or
  - iii. reveal a trade secret;
- d) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal;
- e) the security of –
  - i. the council, councillors and council staff; or
  - ii. the property of the council;
- f) proposals for the council to acquire land or an interest in land or for the disposal of land;
- g) information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to the council on the condition it is kept confidential;
- h) applications by councillors for a leave of absence;
- i) matters relating to actual or possible litigation taken, or to be taken, by or involving the council or an employee of the council;
- j) the personal hardship of any person who is resident in, or is a ratepayer in, the relevant municipal area.

<b>Recommendation</b>
That items 40/26 to 41/26 discussed by Council in Closed section
<b>Moved:</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>
<b>Outcome:</b>

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Matter</b>	<b><i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025</i></b>
<b>40/26</b>	Report – Strahan Waterfront Project	17 (2) (a)
<b>41/26</b>	Open Meeting	17 (9)