

Brighton Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 2009



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Introduction

Brighton Council's Annual Report is comprised of two key parts:-

- *The first part includes the Mayor and General Manager's messages, together with reports on the major strategies set out in the 2008/09 Annual Plan.*
- *The second part of the Annual Report incorporates the audited financial statements for the financial year.*

History

The Brighton Council area is very rich historically with what we now know as Pontville being first penetrated by early Royal Marine patrols soon after the arrival of Governor David Collins at Sullivans Cove on 21st February 1804.

In 1821, Governor Lachlan Macquarie toured the island and selected sites for five townships, one of which was Brighton, being so called in honour of the favourite place of residence of King George IV. As early as 1822, twelve months after Macquarie's visit, Brighton was being spoken of as the future capital of Tasmania. Although considered again in 1824 and 1825, the proposal was dropped and in 1826 became a military post on the main Launceston to Hobart road.

The Council itself held its first meeting on 19th November 1863. In 1993, some one hundred and thirty years later, there were significant changes as a result of the number of Councils in Tasmania being reduced from forty six to twenty nine. This "amalgamation" of councils saw the "loss" of sixty one percent of rural land. Brighton is now a small council, covering an area of approximately 168 square kilometres.

Brighton is located approximately 25 kilometres from Hobart and forms the northern urban suburb of the Hobart metropolitan region. Prior to the early 1970s, Brighton was principally a rural municipality. The establishment of the large public housing estates in Bridgewater and Gagebrook in the 1970s and private development in the late 1980's and early 1990s, changed the municipality into more of an urban residential area.

In recent years, commercial and industrial development is increasing in our industrial estate, the largest in the south of the state.

Brighton has a population of approximately 15,000 with a median age of 29 years and 95% of the population are under 65 years of age.

Brighton Council continues to set new standards of achievement in local government in Tasmania, and has shown what can be achieved by the local community and council working together.

If you would like further information, or wish to comment on any aspect of this report please contact Council on 6268 7000.

Invitation for Submissions

Members of the community are invited to make submissions on the Annual Report for discussion at Council's Annual General Meeting, which will be held at 5.00pm on Tuesday 15th December 2009. Any person wishing to make a submission should do so by close of business Friday 4th December 2009.



Mayor's Message



In my 16 years as Mayor, I can say with pride and humility that Brighton has never been in better shape. Over the past financial year there have been three exciting new developments, each helping to ensure that our community will progress confidently into the 21st century.

The \$243 million Brighton bypass and transport hub is fast becoming a reality. Work on the \$79 million hub began six months ahead of schedule and should be operational by September 2011. The \$164 million bypass is due for completion just nine months later. These two projects will fundamentally change the dynamics within the municipality – giving us the momentum to move further forward as a significant participant in Tasmania's future. The hub will provide much-needed employment opportunities for our region, creating up to 380 direct jobs and with additional flow-on effects for local businesses. This new road-rail facility will improve the efficiency of freight movement into and out of southern Tasmania. We are well on target with meeting the goals of long-term sustainable growth. The bypass from Bridgewater to Dysart will reduce travel time along the Midland Highway and improve safety and amenities for our residents in Brighton, Pontville, Mangalore and Bagdad. The bypass and the transport hub will alter the landscape of our community.

The new future direction for education and training within the municipality, which has the youngest demographic in the state, is another major new development. Out of the ashes of the Bridgewater High School fire comes an exciting birth-to-adult education blueprint specifically designed for our community. I chaired a taskforce that made 11 recommendations to the State Government. Nine of the taskforce's recommendations were accepted, including building a new regional facility on the original high school site that will accommodate grades nine to 12, with adult learning provision and a trades training centre. Other associated key initiatives are refurbishment of the existing primary schools to facilitate birth-to-age-four development; and having separate 'middle' schools for years five to eight. We believe the new middle school model will boost school retention rates and levels of educational attainment.

The opening of the Brighton Civic Centre is the third major achievement of the year. The 1000 square-metre centre provides a significant community amenity for local groups and schools to meet and hold major events. The \$2.8 million centre was funded primarily by Brighton Council, with a \$268,000 grant from the Federal Government. Apart from local community use, we expect to entice conferences, forums and seminars from other areas in the state and even interstate.

These three achievements will go a long way to improving the amenities, educational needs and work opportunities for the 15,000 Tasmanians who live in the Brighton municipality. I am proud to present this annual report. I believe it underscores a prosperous and positive future for our community.

Tony Foster OAM JP
Mayor of Brighton





General Manager's Message



Brighton is one of the smaller local governments among the 29 municipalities in the state; but the expertise of our staff is increasingly used by other Tasmanian councils.

For several years we have developed strategic agreements for resource sharing with other Tasmanian municipalities. These agreements allow Brighton to sell the expertise of its professional staff and some services to other councils which don't have the resources. Those councils buying our expertise or service are then able to reduce their staffing levels. Brighton benefits from the income it derives from these agreements; the other councils benefit from lower employment costs. By having these mutually beneficial arrangements, small local governments can remain sustainable in the long-term. In 2008/09 we provided services to eight other councils and had more than 8,800 externally charged hours for these services and IT support and training.

Brighton Council's local government software continues to perform well; it is now being used by 10 councils in Tasmania, three in Western Australia and one in NSW. This year we had our first international sales success – the Suva City Council in Fiji has bought our system, thereby broadening the horizon overseas for more potential sales of our IT software.

The financial return we receive from these sales and provision of services enables us to minimise rate increases and significantly enhance the services we are offering to our community. Two other positives from this entrepreneurial approach are: stimulating Tasmania's IT industry and helping the state retain highly-skilled local government professionals. It is no coincidence that Brighton has a low staff turnover; our team enjoys the challenge of helping local governments further afield.

The financial sustainability of individual councils is a growing issue throughout Australia. I can advise that Brighton Council is in a strong financial position as demonstrated by the following indicators of our recent performance:

- Operating Margin = 1.23 (Operating Revenue / Operating Expenses)
- Underlying Result = 18.6% (Net Operating Surplus / Operating Revenue)
- Surplus to Total Revenue = 23.1% (Profit / Total Revenue)
- Capital Expenditure to Depreciation Ratio = 148% (Capital Expenditure / Depreciation)
- FTE per 1000 Population = 4.1 (Full Time Equivalent Staff / 1000 Population)
- Rates per Capita = \$555 (Total Rates / Head of Population)

In each of the above categories Brighton Council is well above the state average and is at or near the "top of the table". This has been the case for several years and we will endeavour to continue this strong financial performance.

Brighton is becoming an exciting community in which to live and work. Educational aspirations and work opportunities are being met and the amenities within the municipality are improving at a great rate. This year has, in my opinion, been one of considerable achievements.

Ron Sanderson
General Manager



Councillors as at 30th June 2009

Cr Tony Foster OAM JP **(Mayor)**

Councillor for 21 years,
Mayor since 1993

Committee Representation:-

- Finance (Chairperson)
- Planning (Chairperson)
- Heritage & Environment

Council Representative:-

- Southern Tasmanian Councils Association
- Emergency Management Advisory Committee



Cr Wayne Garlick

Councillor for 6 years.

Committee Representation:-

- Parks & Recreation
- Planning
- Finance (Proxy)
- Heritage & Environment

Council Representative:-

- Bridgewater/Brighton On-line Access Centre Advisory (Chairperson)



Cr Geoff Taylor **(Deputy Mayor)**

Councillor for 24 years,
Deputy Mayor 2 years.

Committee Representation:-

- Parks & Recreation
- Planning
- Waste Management (Chairperson)

Council Representative:-

- Emergency Management Advisory Committee (Deputy Rep)



Cr Peter Geard

Councillor for 21 years

Committee Representation:-

- Planning
- Finance
- Waste Management

Council Representative:-

- Brighton Senior Citizens Management (Chairperson)
- Local State Emergency Services Co-ordinator
- Bicycle Users Group
- Southern Waste Strategy Board Joint Authority
- Hobart Regional Water Board Joint Authority (Deputy Rep)
- Jordan River Fire Management
- Cycling South



Cr Barbara Curran

Councillor for 13 years

Committee Representation:-

- Planning
- Finance
- Heritage & Environment (Chairperson)
- Waste Management

Council Representative:-

- Brighton Primary School Council



Cr Leigh Gray

Councillor for 3 years.

Committee Representation:-

- Parks & Recreation (Chairperson)
- Planning
- Heritage & Environment
- Waste Management

Council Representative:-

- Southern Waste Strategy Board Joint Authority (Deputy rep)



Cr Sonya Williams

Councillor for 3 years.

Council Representative:-

- Parks & Recreation
- Planning

Committee Representation:-

- Brighton Junior Council
- Bridgewater High School Council
- Gagebrook Primary School Council



Cr Moya Jeffries

Councillor for 2 years

Committee Representation:-

- Parks & Recreation
- Planning
- Finance

Council Representative:-

- Brighton Junior Council
- Bridgewater High School Council
- Bridgewater/Brighton On-line Access Centre Advisory (proxy)



Cr Philip Owen

Councillor for 19 years

Committee Representation:-

- Finance
- Planning
- Heritage & Environment
- Waste Management

Council Representative:-

- Hobart Regional Water Board Joint Authority





Overview and Highlights

To attain its 2040 vision, Brighton developed a 10-year Strategic Plan identifying eight major objectives to drive Council's planning towards 2016. Council's Annual Plan also incorporates these objectives.

These objectives are to:

- *Promote Brighton as a great place to be*
- *Improve education and training opportunities.*
- *Promote industrial and business growth.*
- *Maintain and improve the physical infrastructure of the region*
- *Improve communication and interaction between residents, community groups and businesses.*
- *Improve land-use planning by developing a land use and development strategy; including business and administrative districts.*
- *Facilitate provision of better transport systems.*
- *Form alliances to take projects and strategies forward.*

A great deal was achieved in the past 12 months to meet these 10-year objectives of the 2040 vision. We've ticked a number of boxes against all eight of these objectives:

Image

Promote Brighton as a great place to be.

We have

- *had significant positive press coverage about the region's collective and individual achievements.*
- *Continued to achieve a significant reduction in vandalism and dumped garbage.*
- *landscaped and planted trees along the Jordon River in Brighton.*
- *completed a landscape plan for the municipality*





Education and Training

Improve education and training opportunities.

We have

- *supported the construction of new facilities to replace the High School and Training facilities.*
- *co-ordinated adult literacy training in the municipality.*
- *continued to partnership with schools in providing support for sporting programs*
- *been involved in the proposed Commonwealth funded Bridgewater Children and Family Centre.*
- *continued to work closely with school principals in the municipality to push for improved education programs and opportunities for its community.*

Business Growth

Promote industrial and business growth.

We have

- *facilitated a number of new developments to the area in the Industrial Estate and in the general community.*
- *successfully lobbied state and commonwealth governments to commit to the construction of the new Brighton Transport hub within the next two years.*





Physical Infrastructure

Maintain and improve our physical infrastructure.

We have

- *completed construction of the new Brighton Civic Centre at Greenpoint Road, Bridgewater.*
- *significantly increased usage of the Pontville Hall for community arts events.*
- *relocated the Bridgewater Country & Friends Club to the Coronation Hall.*
- *upgraded kitchen and landscaping at the Council Offices.*
- *built a fishing platform at Riverside Drive, Bridgewater.*
- *provided kerb and channel, footpath, bus bay and widened Jetty Road, Old Beach.*
- *installed a gross pollutant trap in Cheswick park to reduce the amount of litter discharging into the park from the stormwater system.*

Communications

Improve communication and interaction between residents, community groups and businesses.

We have

- *continued Brighton Alive, a community forum to enhance communication about Brighton within the community through monthly meetings and a dedicated website.*
- *continued to co-ordinate a weekly radio show.*
- *reviewed Brighton Community News and increased frequency to monthly.*
- *increased the issue of positive stories to the general media.*





Land Use Planning

Get our land use planning right – including business and administrative districts.

We have

- *engaged consultants to prepare Stage 2 of the sub-regional land use strategy.*
- *held workshops to facilitate additional input into the sub-regional land use planning strategy.*
- *restructured Brighton's environment and development services department to provide better service delivery.*
- *continued our review of all land owned by Council.*
- *adopted Brighton Structure Plan.*
- *been involved in Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project.*

Transport Systems

Facilitate provision of better transport systems.

We have

- *successfully lobbied state and commonwealth governments to commit to the construction of the Midland Highway Brighton bypass.*
- *supported the relocation of the Hobart railhead to the planned new transport hub at Bridgewater.*
- *constructed a 3.2 kilometre walking track along the Bridgewater foreshore. The walkway included a number of barriers to try and prevent motorbikes using the walkway.*
- *constructed a 1.0 kilometre walking track along the Jordan River from the Midland Highway to Blackburn Avenue which has increasing recreational activity in the area.*
- *lobbied for a community bus for the area.*
- *lobbied for better public bus services in the area.*





Alliances

Form alliances to take projects and strategies forward.

We have

- *worked closely with Glamorgan-Spring Bay; Central Highlands; Tasman and Flinders Island Councils.*
- *provided in excess of 6600 hours of professional local government services to a number of Tasmanian local councils.*
- *utilised neighbouring local government staff to work on community projects such as art initiatives.*
- *expanded service provision with Microwise Pty Ltd*
- *formed an alliance with Suva City Council (Fiji).*



Public Health

Council will:

- *conduct monthly immunisation clinics, annual school immunisations and promote the need for immunisation.*
- *ensure proper provision of on-site effluent disposal in compliance with relevant standards.*
- *undertake routine inspection of places of public assembly, to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.*
- *promptly investigate environmental health complaints.*
- *Maintain an effective analysis program for food, potable water, recreational waters and general complaints.*

We have

- *conducted monthly immunisation clinics, annual school immunisations and promoted the need for immunisation.*
- *operated the Swine flu-pandemic clinic at the Brighton Civic Centre in accordance with State Government instructions and Council's Flu-Clinic Operations sub-plan.*
- *ensured proper provision of on-site effluent disposal in compliance with relevant standards.*
- *undertaken routine inspection of places of public assembly, to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.*
- *promptly investigated environmental health complaints.*
- *maintained an effective analysis program for food, potable water, recreational waters and general complaints.*
- *employed a Cadet Environmental Health Officer.*
- *council's annual environmental health budget for 2008/09 was \$15,450 (not including EHO salaries).*



Performance Statistics – Environment & Development:

ANIMAL CONTROL	2009	2008
Total number of dogs registered with Council	3,237	3,440
Number of Complaints	472	555
Number of dogs taken to Hobart Dogs Home	342	348
LAND USE PLANNING AND BUILDING		
Number of Development Applications processed	401	328
Number of Subdivision Applications processed	64	34
Total number of new lots created	201	490
Number of Building Permits processed	348	250
Value of Building Approvals	\$60.7 million	\$30.5 million
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH		
Number of Vaccinations	1050	1435
Number of Food Premises Registered	57	60
Number of complaints	90	115
Number of Food Samples Taken	8	16
Number of Water Samples Taken	156 (no failures)	180
Number of On site Wastewater Applications	40	50
Total Expenditure on Public Health	\$15,490	\$22,000





Governance

Public Interest Disclosure Act 2002

This report is made pursuant to Section 86 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002*. No public interest disclosures were made during the 2008/09 year. A copy of Council's Policy on Public Interest Disclosures, adopted by Council under Part 7 of the Act can be obtained by contacting Council's Manager Governance & Human Services on 6268 7027.

Water Supply – Regulation 36(a) – Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

Council continued to purchase water from Hobart Water and reticulated it to residents through its two part tariff. All properties in the municipality with water are currently metered.

Councillors Allowances – Section 72(1)(cb) – Local Government Act 1993

Total amount paid to Councillors, Mayor and Deputy Mayor for allowances, travel and miscellaneous reimbursements for the period 1 July 2008–30 June 2009 was \$128,877.

Senior Position – Section 72(1)(cd) – Local Government Act 1993

In accordance with Section 72(1)(cd) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council identified the General Manager as holding a senior position. The General Manager's total annual remuneration as specified in subsection (5) of the Act for the financial year 2008/09 was between \$200,000 - \$220,000. This amount includes salary; employer superannuation; value of the use of motor vehicle and value of allowances and/or benefits provided.

Donation of Land Statement – Section 177 – Local Government Act 1993

Section 177 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, requires Council to report on any land donated by Council during the year. Council has not resolved to donate any land in accordance with the Act.



Public Tenders – Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

The Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 requires that Council reports any contract for the supply or provision of goods and services valued at or above \$100,000 (excluding GST) during the financial year. Council did not call for any tenders.

Partnership Agreement with State Government

Council began negotiations for a second partnership agreement with the State Government. This is expected to be signed by the Mayor and Premier next financial year.

Risk Management

Risk Management is an integral part of Brighton Council's management practice. Our aim is to keep risk exposure to a minimum by helping to reduce injuries and potential loss. This process involves identifying potential risks, analysing their potential damage and treating the risks by taking appropriate action.

Our Risk Management Plan covers areas such as proactive inspections of roads and footpaths, written agreements with clubs/user groups, building and financial services, town planning and water/sewer functions.

Council has made significant improvements in all areas of risk management over the past twelve months and general work practices now involve risk assessments at all levels.





Councillor Attendance

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members	No. of Meetings	Attended	%
Cr T Foster (Mayor)	12	9	75%
Cr G Taylor (Deputy Mayor)	12	12	100%
Cr B Curran	12	10	83%
Cr W Garlick	12	11	92%
Cr P Geard	12	11	92%
Cr L Gray	12	11	92%
Cr M Jeffries	12	12	100%
Cr P Owen	12	11	92%
Cr S Williams	12	8	67%

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Members	No. of Meetings	Attended	%
Cr T Foster (Mayor)	1	1	100%
Cr G Taylor (Deputy Mayor)	1	0	0%
Cr B Curran	1	1	100%
Cr W Garlick	1	1	100%
Cr P Geard	1	1	100%
Cr L Gray	1	1	100%
Cr M Jeffries	1	1	100%
Cr P Owen	1	1	100%
Cr S Williams	1	1	100%

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members	No. of Meetings	Attended	%
Cr S Foster (Mayor)	1	0	0%
Cr G Taylor (Deputy Mayor)	1	1	100%
Cr B Curran	1	1	100%
Cr W Garlick	1	1	100%
Cr L Gray	1	1	100%
Cr P Geard	1	1	100%
Cr M Jeffries	1	1	100%
Cr P Owen	1	1	100%
Cr S Williams	1	1	100%

PARKS & RECREATION

Members	No. of Meetings	Attended	%
Cr L Gray (Chairperson)	7	7	100%
Cr W Garlick	7	5	71%
Cr M Jeffries	7	5	71%
Cr G Taylor	7	6	86%
Cr S Williams	7	6	86%
In Attendance			
Cr P Owen		6	
Cr T Foster		4	
Cr B Curran		5	
Cr P Geard		6	



FINANCE			
Members	No. of Meetings	Attended	%
Cr T Foster (Chairperson)	8	6	75%
Cr B Curran	8	7	88%
Cr P Geard	8	6	75%
Cr M Jeffries	8	8	100%
Cr P Owen	8	8	100%
Cr W Garlick (proxy)	4	4	100%
In Attendance			
Cr W Garlick		3	
Cr L Gray		8	
Cr G Taylor		7	
Cr S Williams		5	

PLANNING			
Members	No. of Meetings	Attended	%
Cr T Foster (Chairperson)	2	1	50%
Cr G Taylor	2	2	100%
Cr B Curran	2	1	50%
Cr W Garlick	2	1	50%
Cr P Geard	2	2	100%
Cr L Gray	2	2	100%
Cr M Jeffries	2	1	50%
Cr P Owen	2	2	100%
Cr S Williams	2	2	100%

HERITAGE & ENVIRONMENT			
Members	No. of Meetings	Attended	%
Cr B Curran (Chairperson)	3	3	100%
Cr T Foster	3	2	67%
Cr L Garlick	3	2	67%
Cr L Gray	3	3	100%
Cr P Owen	3	3	100%
In Attendance			
Cr P Geard		2	
Cr M Jeffries		2	
Cr G Taylor		3	
Cr S Williams		2	

