

Item 15.3 Growth & Strategy Activities

Reporting: Growth & Strategy Manager – Helen Thomas

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the Growth & Strategy activities for July 2022.

DISCUSSION:

Tourism

King Island Incentive Scheme

Conversations continued in June with Tourism Tasmania, West by North West (WxNW) and King Island Tourism Inc. on how to best utilise the unspent funding from the voucher program. A decision is yet to be made, but there seems to be no question that the funding is committed to supporting the King Island tourism industry. Further updates will be provided to industry as decisions are made.

Tourism Forum

On Thursday 22 July, tourism operators and the broader King Island business community were invited to meet with representatives from Events Tasmania, Business Tasmania, Tourism & Hospitality Association (THA), Tourism Tasmania and WxNW.

The forum was very well attended, with around 50 King Island operators taking part in the afternoon's discussions. Follow up conversations have been happening between those operators and the various government and industry agencies who presented and feedback from WxNW CEO Tom Wootton has been very positive. Outcomes from the discussion around the 2030 Visitor Economy Strategy, led by Anne Greentree of Tourism Tasmania and Department of State Growth, will be used to inform any future submission by Council.

Economic Development

King Island Employment and Training

West North West Working (WNWW) is the North West Regional Jobs Hub, a state government-funded initiative to help more Tasmanians into work. During July, planning commenced for the WNWW Board to hold their October meeting on King Island. While the details of this visit are yet to be confirmed, the intent is that the Board members and their advisors will have a site tour with a major King Island employer, as well as meet with local business owners, operators and workers.

Leading Australian Resilient Communities

Tasmanian Leaders and the Regional Australia Institute visited King Island at the end of July to share information about the upcoming Leading Australian Resilient Communities (LARC) program. The LARC program will develop skills, knowledge and provide space for



up to 28 diverse participants from across the North West of Tasmania to consider possible futures for their communities and the leadership required of them. Over eight-months, participants will gather regularly to expand their understanding of regional development, the role of place-based leadership, and develop skills in strategic foresight, adaptive leadership and resilience.

The program is delivered for free, with a travel bursary available for King Islanders attending the face-to-face sessions on the North West coast in recognition of our increased cost of travel. Applications are open now and close on 23 August 2022.

For further information and applications: <https://www.tasmanianleaders.org.au/larc/>

Strategic Waste Management

The Councillor Waste Working Group has been progressing with its strategic review of waste management on King Island. Considering options to inform the grant deed for the Recycling Modernisation Fund led to conversations with Cradle Coast Waste Management Group (CCWMG), Dulverton Waste Management, Garage Sale Trail and Gaia EnviroTech. CCWMG are scheduled to present to the Working Group in early August, after which the group will consider the potential benefits and costs of membership before recommending to Council how to proceed. A separate report is included in this agenda regarding the potential for Council to be part of the Garage Sale Trail in 2022 and 2023.

Major Projects

King Island Hub

Further to the April 2022 execution of this grant deed under the Community Development Grants Program (CDGP) work has been progressing on this community-focussed project. The project is being overseen by the Councillor Working Group, comprising Crs Duncan McFie, Vernon Philbey, Gina Green and Ira Cooke. Stakeholder meetings have been conducted on and off-Island, including King Island Historical Society, King Island Tourism Inc, King Island Regional Development Organisation, Libraries Tasmania and Service Tas. A project manager / architect, Core Collective, has been engaged for the duration of the project, and Council staff are being supported in leading this project by New Insights Pty Ltd, a Hobart-based organisation engaged as Owner's Representative.

While detailed conversations with potential occupants of the building have informed the design and layout of the building, Council is committed to getting feedback and input from our community on how we can program the space to maximise its use for the community. Ms Brett Torossi from New insights will be on the Island during September to engage with community members. More details on this will be shared as they are confirmed.



Community Gym and Wellbeing Facility

A grant deed for this project, funded through the Community Development Grants Program, was signed in February 2022, providing funding of \$1M for the development of a community gym and wellbeing facility at the Currie Oval and improvements to the existing outdoor courts at this site.

A request for quote process commenced in May 2022 to identify a suitable consultant to lead the design of this building and its operation. A partnership between Dock4 Architects and @leisure Planners were selected as the successful team for this project and are currently conducting their desktop assessment. Project kick-off meetings with Council staff have been productive. The team have been in contact over phone and email with a number of King Island sports and recreation organisations, as well as state and national representative bodies, as part of their desktop assessment. A visit to the Island is planned for August 24 to 26 to see the site and to meet with community stakeholders face to face.

More information and requests for appointments can be directed to the Growth & Strategy Manager, with further details to be shared on the Council website and Facebook page soon.

Recycling Modernisation Fund

Council was advised in April 2022 that its application for funding under the Recycling Modernisation Fund was successful. This program seeks to improve the opportunities for recycling in remote areas through joint Federal and State government funding for the purchase of equipment and plant. The key objective of this program is to reduce the volumes of waste being put into landfill across Australia.

Since Council received advice of its success with this grant, staff have been working with the Councillor Waste Management Working Group to determine how best to proceed with this opportunity, as well as keeping in contact with the Department of Natural Resources & Energy (NRE) who are leading this program at the state level. Quotations to confirm pricing of the capital plant and equipment to be funded through this grant program have been sought through the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) panel arrangements, where appropriate, and a final business case is being prepared to inform the detail of the grant deed. It is anticipated that this will be completed in August 2022.

Snodgrass Park Affordable Housing Project

In January 2022, Council worked with Snodgrass Park Inc. to prepare and submit a grant application to the Building Better Regions Fund Infrastructure Stream seeking funding for four x 1- and 2-bedroom prefabricated units to be installed at Snodgrass Park, plus the refurbishment of an existing 1-bedroom unit. The total project budget is set at \$2.06M



with a requirement that 25% of the amount to be provided as a co-contribution to the project.

Decisions on this grant program were put on hold during the Federal election period and the transition to a new government. However, the grant program website was updated during July to advise that assessments were progressing and applicants would be advised of the outcome in mid-2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The activities detailed above are included within approved operational budgets, except where indicated otherwise.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Growth & Strategy Manager Activities Report for July 2022.

