

Wilmot Community Information Evening

Thursday 26 February 2026 7:00pm

Wilmot Memorial Hall

1 Welcome and Introduction

The Mayor extended a warm welcome to all attendees, introducing elected members, Council staff and thanked everyone for their attendance.

1.1 Invitees

Councillors	
Mayor Kate Haberle	Deputy Mayor Penny Lane
Cr Terry Hughes	Cr Phillip Richards
Council Staff	
Jason Browne (General Manager)	Michael Mouat (Director Operations)
Samantha Richardson (Minute Taker)	
Guests	
Gina Harvey (Hydro Tasmania)	Bree Hunter (Hydro Tasmania)
Community Members	
There were 29 community members in attendance	

1.2 Apologies

Councillors	
Cr Linda Cassidy	Cr Simone Haigh
Cr Don Thwaites	
Council Staff	
Cameron Parsons (Director Corporate and Business Services)	

2 Regional Highlights

Presentation – Hydro Tasmania

Representative from Hydro Tasmania presented an update on the Cethana Hydro Project.

Question:

With the construction camp, will Hydro be looking to employ as many local contractors as possible?

Comment:

There are a lot of qualified tradesmen in Wilmot, as well as a lot of people qualified to run the camp, Hydro needs to ensure local suppliers used.

Answer:

Provision has been made for as much local content, training and employment as possible. Connection has also been made with local schools, as this project will take approximately 8 years to complete.

Question:

What is the impact when pumping up from the Lake? Will it drain the lake a little? Lake Gairdner feeds the Wilmot River. What is going to happen to the rivers around the area?

Answer:

Lake Cethana is the only lake that the project will be drawing off. The project will still maintain the flow of all connected rivers.

Question:

When this project finishes, how will this affect ongoing business in Wilmot?

Answer:

This is a common concern across the board, and Hydro are already planning for the transition from construction to operation. There are ways and means to manage this transition appropriately.

Question:

Is the accommodation relocatable?

Answer:

Yes, the land has only been leased.

Mayor Haberle thanked Gina and Bree for their very informative presentation.

Mount Roland Landcare “Thousands of Trees” Planting Program

The Thousands of Trees project is one of our most successful. Starting in 2022, our volunteers have planted over 7,000 native seedlings in the Kentish Municipality for biodiversity, habitat, shelter for native animals and farm animals, screening and beauty.

This project is carefully managed to ensure the best results with landowners applying and selected through a detailed assessment of the site against selection criteria. We then work with the landowners to maximise the survival of the seedlings. To date, we have exceeded our overall target survival rate of 90%, with many sites having a survival rate of over 95%.

We are currently looking for expressions of interest in the 2026 program, with interested landowners encouraged to visit the Mount Roland Landcare website www.mountrolandlandcare.org/thousands-of-trees/ where they will find more information about the program, including a picture gallery showing planting in previous years. Successful applicants will be notified later in March with actual planting occurring either in autumn (late April / May) or spring (September / early October)

Question:

Have any of the previous projects taken place in Wilmot?

Answer:

One project was carried out at the Wilmot School.

Comment:

It is a wonderful organisation to be on. They are also currently toiling with the fox glove problems around the municipality and have installed cameras on the mountain to observe wildlife.

North West Transmission Updates

Council’s General Manager, Director Development and Regulatory Services, and Infrastructure and Assets Coordinator recently met with Jordan Abell (Major Projects Engagement Partner – TasNetworks), Kristin Raw (Leader Major Projects Engagement – TasNetworks) and Jonathan Hammond (Stakeholder Engagement Manager – Genus) to receive an update in relation to the proposed North West Transmission Developments Projects. It was confirmed:

- Local subcontractors have been hired for access track and vegetation clearing works.
- 15 – 20 staff will be accommodated in Burnie for the Burnie substation works.
- Transmission line staff and Sheffield substation staff will be accommodated at Discovery Parks in Devonport, with a small number of staff using Sheffield accommodation at peak times during the construction.

- They are aiming to accommodate all workers within 45-60 minutes of their work locations.

Regional Land Use Strategy Update

The Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy (CCRLUS) is the strategic land use and planning framework for north-west Tasmania, prepared under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 to guide how land is used, developed, and conserved across the region.

It provides a regional perspective between State planning policies and local planning schemes, helping to ensure land use decisions are coordinated across municipal boundaries and support sustainable development outcomes.

The strategy identifies key directions for settlement patterns, growth areas, economic development opportunities, environmental protection, natural hazard risk management, and community well-being.

It aims to balance economic, social, and environmental objectives so that planning outcomes align with both local aspirations and broader State strategic priorities.

Regional land use strategies also help councils and developers interpret where and how growth could occur and provide a basis for preparing Local Provision Schedules and structure plans.

Since its initial declaration in 2011, the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy has been periodically amended to respond to emerging conditions and regional priorities.

A comprehensive review and update of the strategy is underway, with funding support from the Tasmanian Government and coordination led by the Cradle Coast Authority in partnership with member councils, infrastructure stakeholders and the community.

This review process will generate a new draft strategy for consultation, with delivery aimed for 30 June 2026, and is designed to ensure the final strategy reflects current regional priorities for sustainable growth, liveability, environmental stewardship, and infrastructure planning.

The strategy will then be released for community consultation in the second half of 2026.

Question:

Regarding Kentish, are Councils looking at higher density zoning, especially around Burnie, Devonport, etc.

Answer:

They are certainly conscious around ensuring residential zoning is highlighted.

Question:

I'm concerned about land use regarding farming, as apposed to hobby farms. Is this constricting the urban sprawl around places like Sheffield?

Answer:

We aren't seeing those changes at this stage through this project; this would be dependent on future population growth.

Industrial Land Strategy

Council recently undertook an analysis of industrial land in the area, titled the Mersey Leven Sub Regional Industrial Study.

Council has been jointly working on this study with Latrobe, Devonport and Central Coast Councils as part of the Mersey Leven Strategic Alliance.

The Councils jointly engaged the services of Ethos Urban, an economic consulting firm based in Melbourne, working with Tasmanian consultants Moore Consulting and 6ty° Consulting to assist in the analysis of industrial land that will provide Council with the critical information it needs to confidently make strategic decisions regarding the supply of industrial land.

It is noted that a significant proportion of investment is within the Kentish municipality, including the Lake Cethana Pumped Hydro, North West Transmission Development, Dulverton Organics, and Cement Australia's Decarbonisation development.

The Study determined that there is a clear need to identify and plan for additional industrial land to ensure the industrial sector can grow and service the needs of a growing population across the Mersey Leven Region and leverage economic development that is aligned to specialisations in the local economy such as agriculture and downstream food processing and manufacturing. The Study identified that industrial land in Kentish is currently at capacity with no supply available for any new industrial users in the municipality. In considering future industrial land supply options, the Study identified options in Railton and Sheffield.

Question:

I am currently investigating purchasing a property that was previously a farm. I have now been advised that I cannot build on the land if I complete the purchase.

Answer:

Suggest you meet with a planner for clarification. Appointments can be made on Council's website, or by calling Customer Service.

Question:

Is there a chamber of commerce for businesses?

Answer:

Mayor Haberle represents Council on KaLIBA. They are the best contact for anyone looking to start a business.

Question:

We never see KaLIBA on this side of the river.

Answer:

Mayor Haberle will follow this up with KaLIBA.

Question:

I have a squatter on my property and have had for 12 years. This was brought up at the last community evening, and Council's response was that they cannot do anything.

Answer:

That sounds like a civil matter but can be re-investigated.

Comment:

This is a health issue. There is a lot of dumping and human waste.

Answer:

There is no easy answer to this issue, and we will take it on notice.

Comment:

I put in an application for a mobile toilet at the caravan park and was advised that it needed to be inspected by environmental health officials. This was not required last time.

Answer:

This would need to be followed up with our environmental health team.

3 Council Highlights

Annual Plan / Budget Update Q2

Council approved the FY2025/26 Annual Plan and Budget in June 2025, which is a snapshot of the work we are progressing with the continued aim of achieving our vision where *'Kentish is known as a distinctive place where people want to live; for its caring community that celebrates the arts, diversity, the awesome natural environment and its vibrant local economy.'*

A key reference to our annual plan work is our 2020 – 2030 Strategic Plan and Councillor Term Plan, both of which outline our objectives and guide our decisions with a view to supporting us in achieving our vision.

We have also considered our highest rating strategic risks to ensure we continue to progress initiatives that support us in responding to these areas that threaten achieving our vision.

Council received a report in January 2026 sharing progress over the first half of the year and included the following highlights:

- Council is progressing with its Waste Reduction and Minimisation Strategy. Community engagement is currently being sought through a survey. The draft will then be released for public consultation.
- The economic development strategy provides a renewed vision for sustainable economic growth across the municipality. A new five-year strategy is currently being developed and will be the subject of broad consultation with business and community stakeholders
- Council continues to progress as a child-safe organisation and has collaborated with students in the development of youth created artworks for Councils child safe instructional and advocacy posters
- Council is finalising the new Enterprise Agreement which is important to attract, retain, and reward staff whilst negotiating a sustainable position for ratepayers.
- Safety for our team and the community remains a priority with initiatives including 10 staff completed traffic management training
- Procurement of new in-vehicle monitoring system was finalised. The solution includes critical safety features to detect rollovers, duress buttons to support remote or isolated workers, and capabilities for emergency management.
- The 2024/25 Annual General Meeting was held in December in the Sheffield Town Hall
- The net result for Councils Operating Budget for the financial year ending December, is favourable by \$0.019m.

The General Manager added that regulations around traffic management are becoming in depth and it is important that staff are fully qualified staff in this area. Council is also investigating the submissions made towards the 2026/27 budget and will be heading to Wilmot on their municipal tour to see what is needed in the region prior to finalising the budget.

Wilmot Community Entry Sign

Wilmot's town entry signage is often the first impression visitors receive of our community. For some time now, the community has expressed a desire to refresh the town's entry signage.

Although the current sign has served Wilmot well, it incorporates three separate images which can be difficult to take in and appreciate when arriving in town. First impressions matter – and clarity matters even more.

Kentish Council has allocated funding to update the signs in line with the adopted style guide for town entry signage across the Kentish municipal area. The intent is to ensure consistency in presentation while still reflecting Wilmot's distinct identity.

The Wilmot Progress Association has proposed moving to a single, strong image – specifically the drone photograph of the township as shown on the screen. This image captures the sweeping landscape that underpins Wilmot's tagline, "*Valley of Views*", and offers a clear, compelling visual statement.

It is proposed that the lower panel – currently displaying icons for toilets, accommodation, food, and fuel – be retained but refreshed. We welcome your feedback on whether these four icons continue to accurately represent the services available in Wilmot, or whether any should be changed.

Also, given the passage of time, it is proposed to remove the “Tidy Towns 2019” panel. Should Wilmot again achieve this or another significant award, appropriate recognition can be reinstated at that time.

Your thoughts as we work together to ensure Wilmot’s welcome reflects the pride we all share in our community are invited.

Question:

What is going to be the cost of the sign?

Answer:

There is approximately \$12,000 in the budget for signs across the municipality.

Deputy Mayor Lane added that a lot of work has gone towards ensuring the ‘branding’ of Kentish is reflected across the board in all communities.

Kentish Park Toilets

The Kentish Park toilets have recently been reopened, although there has already been a lot of damage and vandalism. Continued vandalism at the site in Lower Barrington has significantly damaged the facilities and has limited Councils willingness for ongoing investment in the facilities.

In recent months, the amenities block has been repeatedly targeted, resulting in repair costs and safety concerns. Incidents have included the theft of equipment and repeated vandalism with repairs approaching \$10,000 in total. Fires have also been deliberately lit inside the toilets using paper and other materials, and fixtures and fittings have been damaged on multiple occasions.

In one instance, large boulders were removed from the lake’s edge and used to smash toilet bowls. Doors that were securing the worksite were unscrewed to gain access to target the facility. Council has received reports of ongoing late night antisocial behaviour in the area, including vehicles and trail bikes accessing and loitering around the facility and general area.

The behaviour presents safety and health risks and places additional strain on its limited ratepayer-funded resources.

Works are scheduled to begin in the off-season to strengthen and reconfigure the facility. Planned upgrades include the installation of stainless-steel toilet suites, heavy duty doors, three unisex cubicles, improved sightlines by lowering part of the external wall, and internal repainting.

As the remote site will only be serviced twice a week plus the repeated fires and blockages, Council will initially adopt a Parks and Wildlife Service approach of “bring your own toilet paper” to reduce misuse and fire risk. Similarly, users of the area will be expected to take their own rubbish with them. Further measures under consideration include potential automatic locking systems to limit after-hours access and the installation of surveillance cameras to the general area.

Public amenities are provided for the benefit of residents and visitors, and that continued vandalism is likely to affect service levels in the future. Community members are encouraged to report anti-social or illegal behaviour to the appropriate authorities.

The Director Operations added that the toilets will be shut back down over winter for major upgrades to ensure they are safe and secure for residents and visitors alike. This behaviour is very disappointing

Wilmot / Sheffield Waste Transfer Stations – Video Monitoring Grant

The Council is pleased to announce that Kentish Council has secured a \$49,800 grant funding from the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group to be utilised at both the Wilmot Transfer Station and the Sheffield Transfer Station, for the following items:

- Bin lifter hardstand at Sheffield Transfer Station (\$15,000)
- A plumbed in eye-wash station at Sheffield Transfer Station (\$7,800)
- CCTV surveillance at Wilmot Transfer Station (\$27,000)

The grant funding for Wilmot Transfer Station will go towards installing a power supply and video monitoring system to site. A welcome addition that will enhance security and safety to all users.

The Director Operations added that the green waste has been contaminated, which will be costly to correct.

Cr Richards added that Dulverton's new \$33 million facility is running at a loss due to the contamination. All of the green waste from Wilmot Transfer Station is processed through Dulverton. He also noted that there are a lot of cans and bottles that are still mixed in the general waste. It is preferred that if you do not wish to collect the refund yourself, that you donate the bottles and cans to charity.

Question:

In the past green waste was burnt safely as a training exercise for training with the fire department.

Answer:

There have been some complaints in this space and is non-compliant with EPA (environmental protection agency) regulations while within the transfer station. We do agree that it was a good service to the community, and good training.

Question:

The recycling skip is co-mingled. What happens to that getting sorted?

Answer:

There is a sorting facility off Kelsey Teir Road, Spreyton where the recycling is sorted. If there is any contamination, then the whole batch of waste needs to go into general waste.

Question:

Could we get something at the school to collect cans and bottles, that way the refund can go towards the school for fundraising. Could Council assist with this so the refund can stay within the community.

Answer:

Dulverton have been working with the Department of Education to arrange a scheme that would be safe for the students. Something could be arranged as a community in the meantime. There used to be a facility at the transfer station to collect bottles and cans which was full every fortnight, but this has greatly diminished since the refund scheme was introduced.

Wilmot Museum and Hall

Council has been working with both the Special Committee responsible for the Wilmot Memorial Hall and the Wilmot Tourism and Progress Association to support the development of a more sustainable operating model for both committees moving forward.

Council has formally agreed to accept the transfer of assets from the WTPA and proceed with a proposed 'merged' Special Committee of Council, which will be responsible for the hall and the museum. Council will also be investing in a new roof to the heritage section of the museum building. This is a great investment in supporting Wilmot and protecting our cultural heritage.

Council will be progressing final approvals at its March Ordinary Meeting of Council, with thanks to the WTPA, Hall Committee and Cr Richards for their support of this project.

Sheffield Museum Reopening

The Kentish Museum officially reopened in mid-January 2026 following a period of review and transition to a new governance and support structure under Kentish Council.

The museum is currently open to the public on a regular weekly schedule (being Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10.00am – 3.00pm).

A refreshed operational model is now in place, providing clearer governance, volunteer support, and stronger alignment with Council policies and community expectations.

Volunteer engagement has been a key focus, with renewed recruitment, clearer role descriptions, and improved support through Council's Volunteer Support framework. The response from both existing and new volunteers has been very positive. There are currently 12 regular volunteers with new recruitment still occurring.

We are seeing steady visitation numbers and strong local interest since reopening, demonstrating the community's ongoing value of our shared history and heritage.

With the Wilmot Museum joining with Kentish Council, this creates opportunities for collaboration, shared volunteer support, coordinated promotion, and a more cohesive approach to preserving and celebrating the history of the Kentish region.

Community Grants

Cradle Coast Waste Services

The Community Clean Up Grant opened on 1 February 2026 and will remain open until 31 March 2026. With Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 1 March 2026 the Cradle Coast Waste Services Group the grant is available to assist any community clean up costs like labour and equipment hire, disposal and recycling costs, and preventative measures. For further information or to access the grant, please contact Kentish Council 03 6491 0200.

Telstra Connected Communities Grant

Telstra, in partnership with Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), is offering grants of up to \$10,000 to support remote, rural, and regional communities across Australia. With \$200,000 available this round, funding supports not-for-profit projects that build:

- Resilient communities
- Sustainable communities
- Liveable (digitally capable) communities

Applications close 5.00pm Thursday 26 March 2026 with successful applicants announced in June. For further information please head to Telstra's website.

Capital / Maintenance Works Update

Currently Council is working with Wilmot residents to have a welcomed, additional, donated memorial seat installed and finalising some new signage designs.

Roadside slashing has been completed over the last six weeks in the Wilmot area and is anticipated to be completed this week. Thanks to our contractor for their assistance with a job well done.

Gravel road re-sheeting capital works was completed last week with now only a few roads remaining for maintenance grading later in the season.

Comment:

The team have done a wonderful job with the roadside slashing.

Question:

There are issues with water on the road, even after the drains are all cleared out.

Answer:

The Director Operations has taken this item on notice.

4 Upcoming Events / Promotions

International Women's Day

International Women's Day was held on March 6 at the Sheffield Town Hall.

International Women's Day is a moment to recognise progress – but recognition alone does not create change. This year's theme is 'Gaining to Give'. Some familiar faces joined us - Karen Hampton, Kristen Lang and Emily Carmichael. They provided an insight into their journey and shared what they have gained and how that has shaped what they give back today.

Proceeds from this year's event were donated to Kentish House.

Australian Rowing Championships

The Australian Rowing Championships (#ARC26) is heading back to Tasmania in 2026, with the spectacular Lake Barrington International Rowing Course set to resume hosting duties from March 23 – 29.

The decision follows the record-breaking success of #ARC25, which saw unprecedented participation levels, overwhelmingly positive athlete feedback and a surge in spectator attendance.

- 2,125 competitors
- 6,000 attendees
- 80% of which came from interstate (and a few from overseas!)
- Average stay of 6.7 nights – equates to some 3,400 bed nights in the NW and 4,500 bed nights out of the region.
- Aside from the benefits of healthy living and showcasing Kentish and Tasmania, this event has had a total economic impact of over \$9 million with \$7.4 million attributed to the NW region.

Rowing Tasmania has confirmed it will support the successful delivery of #ARC26, working in close collaboration with Rowing Australia, the Tasmanian Government and Kentish Council.

Rowing Australia CEO Sarah Cooke OLY said the organisation was inspired by the return to one of Australia's most picturesque and iconic rowing venues after a superb regatta in 2025.

"Lake Barrington offers a truly world-class setting for athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators, and we're incredibly grateful to the Tasmanian Government, Rowing Tasmania, and the Kentish Council for their strong and ongoing support." Cook said. *"We look forward to working together once again to deliver another exceptional event for our sport."*

With the event falling just ahead of the Easter long weekend and the school holidays, it's a wonderful opportunity for participants, families and supporters to extend their trip and explore all that Tasmania has to offer.

#ARC26 presents a perfect opportunity to combine world-class sport with a well-earned holiday in one of Australia's most stunning regions.

Further event details, including entries, ticketing, and volunteer opportunities are available at <https://rowingaustralia.com.au/arc-info>

Weindorfer Day and Film Festival 2026

Weindorfer Day is set to be held on Sunday 3 May 2026, beginning at 10am, marking an important celebration of Gustav and Kate Weindorfer and their fellow nature enthusiasts who pioneered conservation and the protection of Tasmania's natural heritage particularly the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park.

The event commences at 10am with a welcoming ceremony that includes an introduction to Gustav's life and his pivotal role in the preservation of Tasmania's wilderness. Participants will gather at the heart of Wilmot, a town with historic connections to the Weindorfers, where his spirit of conservation is deeply revered.

Throughout the day, a series of activities are planned, including guided nature walks led by local experts. These walks will offer insights into the unique flora and fauna of the region, reflecting Weindorfer's passion for the natural world.

Additionally, there will be educational workshops focusing on environmental conservation and the history of national parks in Tasmania.

A highlight of the event will be a commemorative speech by a notable conservationist, drawing parallels between Weindorfer's work and current environmental challenges.

This will be followed by a community gathering, where attendees can share stories, enjoy local Tasmanian cuisine, and engage in discussions about ongoing conservation efforts.

Weindorfer Day is more than a commemoration; it's a call to action, inspiring continued commitment to the preservation of Tasmania's natural beauty. It's an opportunity for both locals and visitors to connect with the environment and to honour the legacy of a man whose vision has left an indelible mark on Tasmania's natural heritage.

The Weindorfer Film Festival has now become a state-wide event, being held in September 2026, in Launceston.

5 Community Matters

Question:

Will Council be looking at the swimming pool and toilet facilities at the Recreation Ground?

Answer:

The Recreation Ground is part of the Councillors Municipal Tour.

6 Meeting Close

Mayor Haberle closed the meeting at 8.43pm, thanking everyone for their attendance, noting that if there are any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact their local councillor or the Council office directly.