



## Northern Midlands Council, Planning for the Future

On Thursday 2 November 2023 the Hon Kristy McBain Minister for Regional Development, Local Government & Territories

and Brian Mitchell MP, joined me, General Manager Des Jennings, and Works Manager Leigh McCullagh, at the Longford Memorial Hall as Project Manager Trent Atkinson provided an update about the works which are being carried out.

Part of Longford Urban Design Project, the redevelopment of the Longford Memorial Hall and the first stage of the Longford main street upgrade is funded by the Australian Government Community Development Grants Program \$4M.



General Manager Des Jennings, Hon Kristy McBain Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Brian Mitchell MP, and Project Manager Trent Atkinson.

Council took this opportunity to provide Minister McBain, with an overview of the Northern Midlands municipality and its projects, past, present, and planned, demonstrating Council's sound strategic approach to the renewal and replacement of community assets.

### Projects in Progress include:

#### TRANSlink Intermodal Facility

An intermodal site close to the main road, rail corridors and airport would potentially provide:

- A more efficient and safe freight transport system.
- An enhanced regional freight network in northern Tasmania.

Once a small nucleus of low-key business developments, the TRANSlink precinct is now a thriving business estate engaged in a diverse array of activities including freight, transport, civil construction, food wholesalers and distributors, furniture manufacturers, engineering services, and other support services such as cafés.



TRANSlink industrial precinct

The TRANSlink Intermodal Facility which includes:

- A rail spur to the precinct at Western Junction from the existing line.
- Installation of an 8 km natural gas pipeline from Youngtown.
- Extension and upgrade of the stormwater system.
- A 24/7 freight hub; and
- Warehousing.

The Federal Labor Government recognised the significance of this project with a funding commitment of:

- \$5M to commence planning process (stage 1)
- \$30M to deliver enabling infrastructure (stage 2)

The **Perth Combined Projects** are based on population growth and community demand for sports. Proposed projects include:

#### Perth Sports Centre & Community Centre

Perth's current recreation ground, has several ageing sporting facilities, including the skatepark and an inadequate size oval. Improvements undertaken include upgrades to the oval lighting, installation of an electronic scoreboard and goal netting, a new scorer's box, and resealing of the carpark. Council has developed a draft concept plan for the development of a green field site into a regional facility. A staged project that is subject to land purchase and community need, components could include:

- Stage 1 – roads, carparking, cricket nets, wetlands, landscaping, and exercise pathway.
- Stage 2 - indoor and outdoor sports arenas.
- Stage 3 - inclusive of a multi-purpose Centre.
- Stage 4 inclusive of an Aquatic Centre.

#### Perth South Esk River Parklands

Some of the components include:

- Upgrading existing and new picnic facilities along the Perth Riverbank reserve.
- Extending the William Street concrete walking path to connect with the proposed George Street Park with a bridge structure spanning the gully.
- Landscaping including endemic plant species to reinstate native flora and fauna.
- Cost estimate: \$1.7M.

#### Napoleon Street playground

The landscaped park will include a large open space, a park/playground area comprising picnic shelters, BBQ facility, all abilities swings, a nature play area, and a multi-play structure for a variety of age groups and challenges. Cost estimate: \$0.65M includes amenities.

#### Sheepwash Creek Corridor – passive recreation public open space

Catchment is approx. 954 hectares, 613 hectare upper area of the catchment passes through Mackinnon's Dam, north of Perth. Overflows from the dam pass to the creek line which makes its way through the West Perth urban area. Works encompass 3 stages:

- Drummond Street culvert/bridge replacement.
- Realignment of Sheepwash Creek; and
- Culvert/bridge replacement – Philip & Edward streets.

The target completion date is 30 June 2025 with a total cost of \$3.7M with \$1.85M Disaster Ready Funding secured.

#### Ross Recreation Ground Proposed upgrades include:

Inclusive clubrooms/changerooms, public toilets, main entry point and access points, ticket booth refurbish, perimeter fence, cricket wicket, gravel circuit and oval perimeter fence, new sheds, dog exercise park, picnic shelter, rodeo ground, shade sails and seating.



Ross Recreation Ground

At an estimated cost estimate of \$0.5 million, this facility will be utilised by male and female participants of Veterans Cricket Tasmania, Ross Rodeo, Community Groups, Ross and the wider community.

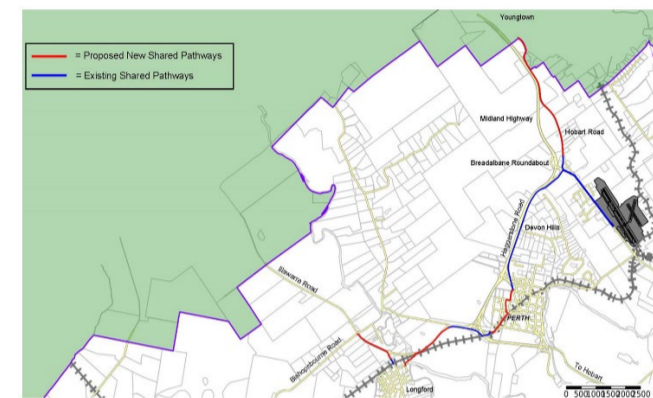
### Projects still in planning include:

#### Pioneer Park Evandale

A preliminary landscape master plan illustrates potential opportunities within Pioneer Park to enhance the usability and enjoyment for the Evandale community. The plan aims to protect the heritage values of the park and proposes reorganising and improving public amenities as well as a new playground, car parking, walking track, barbeque and picnic shelter, wayfinding signage and landscaping.

#### Shared Pathways

Council is seeking to partner with the State and Australian Governments to create a coordinated network of off-road pedestrian/cyclist shared pathways connecting Youngtown to Launceston Airport, through Perth and onto Longford, and Longford to the intersection of Illawarra and Bishopsbourne Roads.



Proposed shared pathways

#### Youngtown to Launceston Airport and Perth

Council has developed design plans for an off-road shared pathway from Youngtown to the Breadalbane roundabout. The cost of this 4.6km concrete pathway was recently estimated as \$1.8 million.

#### Shared Pathway through Perth

Preliminary concept plans for a 1.9km pathway travelling through Perth via Sheepwash Creek reserve, alongside Youl Road, connecting with the shared pathway travelling towards Longford, which currently terminates at the intersection of Illawarra and Pateena Roads. The cost of this 1.9 Km pathway was recently estimated as \$780,000.

#### Perth to Longford Shared Pathway

Council is proposing that the existing shared pathway be extended from the intersection of Illawarra and Pateena Roads, into Longford by following the old race track across McKinnon's property, down under the rail viaduct and across the South Esk River via a stress ribbon bridge to connect with Union Street in Longford.

In late 2021 Council developed concept plans and cost the stress ribbon bridge and the associated approaches. The cost at that time was estimated as \$4.4M however the costing does not include planning approvals, design, contract administration, contingency, or risk.

The cost of the three metre wide, 1.9km long concrete pathway connecting the bridge to the Pateena Road turn-off and the bridge to Union Street, was costed recently as \$1.42 million.

#### Longford to Bishopsbourne Road Shared Pathway -

This shared pathway, approximately 1.6kms in length, will be situated adjacent to the new section of Illawarra Road between the roundabout at the entrance to Longford, and the intersection of Bishopsbourne and Illawarra Roads.

The cost of the shared pathway has been recently estimated as \$1.4million. The costing did not include any land acquisition required, nor the cost of extending the pathway into Longford from the town entry roundabout.

For more information about our strategic projects visit [northernmidlands.tas.gov.au/documents/strategic-annual-plan/strategic-projects](http://northernmidlands.tas.gov.au/documents/strategic-annual-plan/strategic-projects)

#### Mary Knowles OAM

Mayor