

LOCAL VOICES WANTED TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE MIDLANDS

Applications will soon open for the next round of District Committee memberships, giving locals the chance to connect, contribute and be heard.

A VOICE FOR YOUR TOWN: HOW DISTRICT COMMITTEES SHAPE THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS

With the current term of Northern Midlands Council's District Committees concluding this June 2026, community members are being invited to consider stepping forward for the next two-year term. But what does it really mean to be part of a District Committee—and why does it matter?

Across the Northern Midlands, District Committees have long played a vital role in ensuring that each town retains a strong, local voice. Established following the amalgamation of councils in 1993, these committees were created to maintain close connections between Council and the communities it serves.

Today, that role remains as important as ever.

MORE THAN MEETINGS: A LOCAL VOICE IN ACTION

District Committees are Special Committees of Council that operate in an advisory capacity, bringing together residents, business owners and community representatives from across the municipality. At their core, these committees act as a direct link between Council and the community, ensuring that local insights inform broader decision-making.

Committee members:

- Act as a communication channel, sharing information between Council and their local community
- Identify community needs, concerns and expectations through engagement and discussion
- Provide formal feedback on issues or projects referred to them by Council

Through this work, committees help ensure that local priorities—from infrastructure improvements to community initiatives—are clearly understood and considered.

LISTENING, REPRESENTING AND ADVISING

Beyond these core functions, District Committees play an important role in listening to their community and representing local voices in a structured way.

Members engage with residents, community groups and local organisations to understand emerging issues and opportunities, then communicate these insights back to Council through meeting discussions, recommendations and formal motions.

Committees may also:

- Highlight strategic issues affecting their district
- Provide input into Council projects and consultations
- Contribute ideas and priorities for future works and services

Each year, committees help identify and prioritise local projects for consideration in Council's future planning and budgets, ensuring community voices are part of long-term decision-making.

SUPPORTING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM said District Committees play a vital role in strengthening the connection between Council and the community. "Our District Committees are an invaluable part of how we stay connected with our communities," Mayor Knowles said. "They bring forward local knowledge, ideas and concerns that help Council make better-informed decisions. Most importantly, they give residents a genuine voice in shaping the future of their towns." As part of Council's volunteer network, committee members contribute their time, skills and experience to build stronger communities. Volunteers are recognised as an integral part of Council, helping to strengthen connections and expand the services that can be delivered across the municipality.

A MEANINGFUL WAY TO GET INVOLVED

For many members, serving on a District Committee is both rewarding and impactful.

It offers the opportunity to:

- Contribute to meaningful local outcomes
- Develop leadership and community engagement skills
- Build stronger connections with neighbours and stakeholders

District Committees are open to a wide range of people, including residents, business owners and representatives of local organisations. No formal experience is required—just a genuine interest in your community and a willingness to be involved. Members are appointed for a fixed two-year term, commencing in July.

WHY IT MATTERS

From small towns to growing regional centres, every community has its own priorities, challenges and aspirations. District Committees help ensure those local differences are heard and understood. By strengthening communication between Council and the community, they play a key role in building trust, encouraging participation, and supporting better outcomes for the Northern Midlands as a whole.

BE PART OF THE NEXT TERM

As the current term draws to a close, Council will soon call for applications for the 2026–2028 District Committee membership. For those looking to make a difference, this is an opportunity to step forward, share your perspective, and help shape the future of your community. Because strong communities start with strong local voices—and those voices start with people willing to be involved.

MEMBERSHIP OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES 2026 - 2028



Residents, representatives from community interest groups, organisations and local business owners are invited to apply for membership of Council's District Committees representing the communities of:

- Avoca (& surrounding areas of Royal George & Rossarden)
- Campbell Town (& surrounding areas including Conara, Epping Forest, Cleveland & Lake Leake)
- Cressy (& surrounding areas including Blackwood Creek & Poatina)
- Evandale (& surrounding areas including Western Junction, Breadalbane, Deddington, Nile & Ben Lomond)
- Longford (& surrounding areas including Bishopsbourne, Toiberry & Liffey)
- Perth (& surrounding areas including Devon Hills)
- Ross (& surrounding areas including Tooms Lake)

As a Special Committee of Council, members will be appointed and meet in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The Committee acts in an advisory capacity only, and the purpose of these Committees is to:

- Be a communication channel and conduit for information between Council and the Committee's local community
- Identify any needs, concerns and expectations of the local community by way of community consultation and engagement
- Consider and provide written feedback to Council in respect to matters referred to the Committee by Council for consultation.

In order for your membership application to be considered by Council for the commencement of the new term, your application must be received by Council by COB on **Monday, 19 June 2026**.

Hard copy membership application forms are available on request by emailing council@nmc.tas.gov.au or phoning **03 6397 7303**.



- 1 Councillors talk to the committee members in Avoca on the Municipal Bus tour 2025
- 2 Campbell Town Committee members meet with Mayor Mary Knowles OAM and other Northern Midlands Councillors 2025
- 3 Members of the Ross District Committee meet with Northern Midlands Councillors on the Annual Municipal Bus Tour 2025

CONTACT US

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OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:45am - 4:30pm