

## Strategic asset management, an inconvenient truth?

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Asset management has for too long been seen as a niche discipline and the domain of engineers and accountants. However, asset management is not simply about the assets, it is really about the services they enable us to provide for our communities. The City of Launceston came to this realisation in 2017 as it moved from a suite of asset management plans and disparate set of key planning documents to a more strategic management approach that also satisfied our obligations under the Act<sup>1</sup>.

2017-2018 included a period of widespread change amongst senior management, the commencement of a new general manager, an extensive CBD renewal program, the review of key corporate planning documents, and Local Government elections in late 2018.

The new Executive had a clear vision for a whole of organisation approach to the formation of our corporate strategy. The vision was implemented through the formation of a well-resourced off-line Corporate Planning Team to prepare new statutory plans - Corporate Strategic Plan, Long-term Financial Plan and Strategic Asset Management Plan. New Organisational Values & Behaviours were also prepared to provide the cultural roadmap aligning the efforts of our people Council wide.

Concurrent development and drafting ensured alignment of strategy and objectives across the suite of plans, as the outputs from one document became in-puts into the other/s.

The City of Launceston has now established a robust framework that defines both our current obligations to maintain existing service provision to our community as well as our ambition and capacity to deliver new and innovative services.

The task ahead is to ensure that the evidence base and tools developed are now used as a vehicle for wise decision making, and not characterised as limiting future ambition.

### References:

1. Local Government Act 1993 (TAS)