The West Tamar Municipal Area includes the western side of the Tamar River from the suburban area of Riverside in Launceston extending north to Bass Strait and as far west as Frankford.

West Tamar Council was inaugurated on the 2nd of April 1993 and is responsible for 689 square kilometres and 450 kilometres of road network. Council’s offices are in Riverside, Exeter and Beaconsfield.

The major industries are tourism, retailing, agriculture, fishing, world class vineyards and first class maritime education facilities.

The valley has various natural attractions including the Narawntapu National Park, Notley Fern Gorge, Tamar Island Wetlands and the Tamar River. The valley has an abundance of historical attractions and points of interest that account for the foundation of Tasmania, in particular the York Town settlement site and the Beaconsfield Mine & Heritage Centre.

The Tamar River estuary and its tributaries are home to an abundance of birdlife and combined with its beautiful landscape the West Tamar is a peaceful and idyllic residential and rural setting.
LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABS            Australian Bureau of Statistics
BCHWA          Beaconsfield Community Health and Wellbeing Association Incorporated
BDHS           Beaconsfield District Health Service
CALD           Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
CDO            Community Development Officer
DHHS           Department of Health and Human Services (Tasmania)
DSG            Department of State Growth (Tasmania)
PAS            Positive Ageing Strategy
RDO            Recreation Development Officer
UDHR           University Department of Rural Health
UTAS           University of Tasmania
WCP            Windsor Community Precinct
WHO            World Health Organization
WTC            West Tamar Council
WTCSG          West Tamar Community Safety Group
WTMA           West Tamar Municipal Area
WT SAG         West Tamar Seniors’ Advisory Group
YDO            Youth Development Officer
WEST TAMAR SENIORS’ ADVISORY GROUP

The West Tamar Seniors’ Advisory Group (WT SAG) is the responsible committee of Council for the review of the Positive Ageing Strategy.

WT SAG meets once a month to discuss issues pertinent to positive ageing in the West Tamar, including the implementation of the Positive Ageing Strategy. New members, men and women over the age of 50 residing in the West Tamar Municipal Area (WTMA), are always encouraged to join. The PAS, its recommendations and priorities have been developed collaboratively by WT SAG, which includes representatives from the community and West Tamar Council elected members and staff.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON:

I have had the privilege of being involved in formulating the Positive Ageing Strategy for the West Tamar Council since 2011. I have lived in the municipality for nearly 37 years and I plan to stay. Fortunately I am healthy and very active and everything I need to age in the best possible way is readily available to me here. I want to help members of our community to age in the way that best suits them by providing planning and support for the future.

Roslyn Burr
Chairperson, WT SAG

MEMBERS:
Cr Joy Allen (Deputy Mayor, West Tamar Council)
Mrs Robyn Bond
Mrs Roslyn Burr (Chairperson)
Mrs Glenyse Frost
Mrs Tomima Fuge
Mrs Frances Grant
Dr June Hazzlewood OAM
Ms Shirley Kirkby
Ms Sharon McLennan
Miss Kaitlin Roach (Community Development Officer, West Tamar Council)
Mrs Karen Sluce
FOREWORD FROM THE MAYOR

It is with great pleasure that I present the second West Tamar Council Positive Ageing Strategy, a five year plan for Council and the community to work towards ensuring that senior residents in the West Tamar municipality can enjoy a happy, healthy, active and socially connected lifestyle. It is a true testament to the committed members of the West Tamar Seniors’ Advisory Group that so much was achieved under the previous Positive Ageing Strategy – from projects as large as the Windsor Computer Hub and the Windsor Community Garden, to the annual events such as our Seniors Week celebrations that keep seniors in our community engaged – and I am sure that through the new Strategy the Seniors’ Advisory Group will continue to thrive.

Council looks forward to assisting with the implementation of the Strategy Objectives and I encourage all senior residents and their families to explore ways in which they can engage in our Strategy.

Cr Christina Holmdahl
MAYOR
INTRODUCTION

Following the expiry of the first West Tamar Council Positive Ageing Strategy (2011-2015), the West Tamar Seniors’ Advisory Group (WT SAG) sought to review and implement a new, consolidated Strategy based upon the objectives achieved and work still to come from the initial document.

The West Tamar Council Positive Ageing Strategy (PAS) is designed to create a platform that will support and value the residents of the West Tamar Community as they grow older, and to build opportunities for partnerships, planning and participation for positive ageing. The research and formulation of the West Tamar Council Positive Ageing Strategy 2016-2021 has been undertaken by Council’s Community Services Department and community consultation has occurred through WT SAG, with members representing a cross section of the West Tamar community.

The Strategy has a two (2) pronged approach to achieving positive ageing in the West Tamar:

1. To enforce the purpose and guide the activities of WT SAG; and
2. To assist Council’s decision making in regards to issues pertinent to seniors in the West Tamar Community.

Understanding the Positive Ageing Strategy

The Positive Ageing Strategy has seven (7) key aims and objectives:

1. To develop and formalise a vision and strategy for positive ageing in the West Tamar;
2. To provide an overview of current evidence regarding positive ageing;
3. To understand the key issues facing the ageing population, including barriers and enablers to positive ageing by taking an holistic perspective to community health and wellbeing;
4. To recognise the knowledge and experience of older residents and to expand opportunities for this expertise to be built on and valued;
5. To promote positive attitudes to ageing across the West Tamar community;
6. To engage community members in the ongoing process to ensure that visions and goals for positive ageing are relevant and current; and;
7. To promote and develop where feasible, positive inter-sectoral partnerships and links between the WTC and other stakeholders for enhancing and building platforms for positive ageing.

It is important to note that the West Tamar Council Positive Ageing Strategy only addresses issues and actions that can be undertaken or advocated for by the community, as driven by the West Tamar Seniors’ Advisory Group. Issues and
actions which require a higher level policy approach – such as aged care or health service delivery – are not reflected in this Strategy.

The PAS has been divided into four (4) sections including actions that WT SAG will work towards during the life of the Strategy:

1. Inclusion, Engagement and Participation
2. Information, Facilitation and Support
3. Infrastructure, Safety and Environment
4. Services and Resources

The sections are closely connected and equally important to both the concept and living reality of positive ageing in the West Tamar. Due to the interconnectedness of the sections, the replication of key concepts and actions may occur in this plan.

Prioritising the Strategy Objectives

The Strategy Objectives in this plan have been prioritised using an assessment scale of A, B and C. While all actions are seen as priorities, Strategy Objectives prioritised A and B are considered to be imminently achievable through the resources of WT SAG. Strategy Objectives marked C indicate areas which are either being addressed by Council and/or external stakeholders without the contribution of WT SAG, or those areas which are of lesser importance.

WT SAG and West Tamar Council are considered responsible for each Action under the Strategy Objectives. External Partners are also listed where relevant.

Our Ageing Populations: The Regionality of Ageing

The ageing of the world’s population is occurring unevenly across the globe. This is expected to cause unprecedented implications for our societies, economies and policies.¹ In Australia, Tasmania was projected to be the first State or Territory to enter the natural decline, closely followed by South Australia, but several years ahead of other regions.² Most considerations of the ageing population issue refer to national figures, ignoring the region by region demographics and coinciding implications.³ Current Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data based upon the most recent Census (2011) has been used to outline the Tasmanian and West Tamar experience, below.⁴

While population ageing is often referred to as the result of too many people living too long, this is only one perspective in the demographic shift. Decreases in fertility rates and international migration are contributing factors, and in places such as Tasmania, the outward migration of the State’s younger population is a key driver in this change.⁵ ⁶
**Ageing in the West Tamar**

The current population of the West Tamar Municipal Area is 23,012 people with a fairly even gender ratio: 49.6% of the population is male (11,419 people), and 50.4% of the population is female (11,593 people). The average age of West Tamar residents is 43.9 years.\(^7\)

As of the 2011 Census there were 3,755 residents aged over 65 years in the WTMA, constituting 17% of the total population. Estimated projections show this figure growing to 8,186 residents by 2020 (21% of the population) and 7,010 residents by 2030 (26% of the population).\(^8\)

Similar figures are estimated for Tasmania as a whole. The State currently has 80,708 people over the age of 65 (16% of the total population). By 2020 this is projected to grow to 107,860 people (20% of the population) and 139,975 people by 2030 (25% of the population).\(^9\)
What Is Positive Ageing?

Ageing is one of the most significant socio-political issues facing Australia. As the current Baby Boomer generation continues to transition from work to post-work life, issues surrounding our ageing population will continue to impact on our society. Governments at every level across Australia are faced with challenges on how to respond to or prepare for the needs of senior people in their communities, and since the late 1990s, the primary policy response to this issue has been positive ageing.¹⁰

A contentious topic, sociologist Nicole Asquith notes:

> Despite disagreement between researchers, policy makers and older Australians about the meaning of positive ageing, this discourse is now the central plank upon which all government responses are constructed.¹¹

While it is assumed that positive ageing refers predominantly to older people, the ageing of populations has little to do with current senior populations, cementing the
fact that there is an intergenerational responsibility for positive ageing policies and practices.\textsuperscript{12} \textsuperscript{13}

In the policy realm, positive ageing is also referred to as: \textit{successful ageing, productive ageing, healthy ageing,} and \textit{active ageing}; and broadly speaking, refers to \textit{good health, productive lives, social connectedness, independence, dignity, self-fulfilment, participation, care and security}.

The definition of positive ageing is based on principles outlined by the World Health Organization in the Ottawa Charter (1986) and Jakarta Declaration (1997).\textsuperscript{14} \textsuperscript{15} \textsuperscript{16}

According to the WHO, positive ageing is:

\textit{The process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. It applies to both individuals and population groups. [It] allows people to realize their potential for physical, social, and mental well-being throughout the life course and to participate in society, while providing them with adequate protection, security and care when they need.}\textsuperscript{17}

During the past decade, Australian governments at all levels have reframed the ageing population issue as one that should be primarily dealt with by individuals. It is important to note that the WHO Charter and Declaration – referenced above – consider that individual ageing choices are not asocial, but rather intrinsically linked with society:

\textit{Communities must provide the social support required for individuals to make better choices over their life course, [...] governments must provide the infrastructure for both individuals and communities to give ‘life’ to these better choices.}\textsuperscript{18}

The notion of positive ageing and the need for associated policies and practices in our communities is the premise on which the West Tamar Seniors’ Advisory Group was formed.
SECTION 1. INCLUSION, ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Goal: To promote and generate opportunities for positive engagement, inclusion and participation in the West Tamar Municipal Area and its communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Promote and develop positive intergenerational programmes between youth and older residents by working with schools, WTC Youth Development Officer, and the community to build, develop and promote positive attitudes about ageing and the contribution of older residents in the West Tamar.</td>
<td>A / B</td>
<td>Invite WTC Youth Development Officer to discuss youth and intergenerational activities. Members of WT SAG to attend Council supported youth events. Contribute to and support where feasible opportunities for intergenerational programmes. Investigate collaborative art project funding between older resident artists and young people. Liaise with local schools and increase their awareness of the PAS.</td>
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<tr>
<th>STRATEGY OBJECTIVE</th>
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<th>ACTIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Support community events which promote positive ageing.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>WT SAG to organise annual Seniors Week activity for residents of the West Tamar. Contribute to West Tamar Council’s National Volunteer Week and Australia Day celebrations where applicable.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1.3 Continue to research and seek funding to develop resources and programmes that address the needs and priorities of West Tamar's ageing population. | A | Actively monitor grant and funding opportunities that are relevant to ageing, health and wellbeing in the West Tamar.

Work in partnership with the University Department of Rural Health where possible to develop opportunities and submit funding applications to address positive ageing.

Liaise with the Department of Health and Human Services (Health Promotion Department)

Provide support for UTAS/UDHR to use West Tamar Council as a pilot site for research concerning the health and wellbeing of older residents.

Investigate WTC Community Grants for resources and activities to support positive ageing programmes and research. | UDHR / UTAS / DHHS |
SECTION 2. INFORMATION, FACILITATION AND SUPPORT

Goal: To promote, encourage and facilitate activities and the provision of information that promotes positive ageing to older residents in the West Tamar Municipal Area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>EXTERNAL PARTNERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Collaborate with community groups and stakeholders to develop a large text <em>Positive Ageing Guide</em> for all older residents in the West Tamar including a directory of relevant medical and health services, social and recreational activities, transport options, home help and maintenance services.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Begin assembling all relevant information, including that already available in the WTC Community Services Guide. Liaise where relevant with Community Nurses working in the West Tamar. Consult with stakeholders and community representatives to gauge relevant information for positive ageing. Explore “What's On in the North” publication for seniors.</td>
<td>BDHS / BCHWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Investigate a “Positive Ageing” section of the West Tamar Council website with information dedicated to activities, services, information and resources about positive ageing in the West Tamar.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Develop a large text <em>Positive Ageing Guide</em> for all older residents in the West Tamar including a directory of relevant medical and health services, social and recreational activities, transport options, home help and maintenance services. Explore funding opportunities to develop a <em>Positive Ageing Guide</em>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Support and facilitate the development of local community initiatives for older people through groups and organisations servicing seniors in the West Tamar area.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Liaise with the coordinator of <em>Active Tasmania</em> regarding opportunities for positive ageing in the West Tamar. Liaise with WTC RDO on the identification of resources and opportunities for recreation and fitness programmes within the West Tamar for older residents. Liaise where possible with community groups and organisations running activities and programmes for older residents in the West Tamar. Investigate <em>Still Gardening</em> programme.</td>
<td>UTAS / UDHR / BCHWA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.4 Assist in reducing the social isolation of older residents by increasing knowledge of advocating where relevant for more outreach services and partnerships (Neighbourhood Centres, Carers Support Groups, et cetera).</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Review and discuss the Tasmanian Social Inclusion Strategy. Attend where possible workshops and education sessions addressing social isolation issues.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Identify opportunities for partnerships to support carers and respite programmes, and to provide information and support for carers in the community.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Liaise with BDHS and aged care facilities in the West Tamar.</td>
<td>BDHS / BCHWA / Interagency Forums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Increase where possible the promotion of all Council and community events, activities, and resources for older residents by using The Beacon, Your Region in The Examiner, Council’s website, and community networks.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Liaise with Council to identify local stories in the community that highlight positive ageing. Include articles regarding WT SAG, Seniors Week and positive ageing in the West Tamar in The Beacon. Liaise with BCHWA and Beaconsfield House regarding existing and future programmes.</td>
<td>BCHWA / Beaconsfield House</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.7 Support the advertising of activities and programmes for positive ageing in Council publications.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Support positive ageing events and volunteering. Report on PAS actions and progress. Develop local positive ageing events and programmes. See also Actions in 2.6 above.</td>
<td>BCHWA / Beaconsfield House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8 Improve and develop partnerships that address the delivery of information about provisions, resources and services that enable people to “age in place”.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Discuss principles of positive “ageing in place” and acknowledge “ageing in place” as a standing issue for positive ageing in the community. Support opportunities for greater research and engagement with older residents regarding issues around “ageing in place”.</td>
<td>UTAS / UDRH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# SECTION 3. ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Goal: To promote a safe built and natural environment, including well maintained recreational facilities, footpaths, parks and walking tracks to contribute to and facilitate positive ageing and ultimately a higher level of physical activity and engagement among older members of the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>EXTERNAL PARTNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Conduct older driver forums to improve awareness of safe driving and road rules.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Liaise with relevant external partners and WTCSG. Explore opportunities for other education and training sessions which may be relevant for older residents.</td>
<td>DSG / Tasmania Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Support and provide information about community transport available to older residents in the West Tamar.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Support Council partnership with BDHS in running the West Tamar Community Car (in the northern end of the municipality). Circulate information about and promote community transport options available in the West Tamar.</td>
<td>BDHS / BCHWC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Ensure that concerns and issues of older residents regarding community safety are raised the WTCSG.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Communication through WTC CDO.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>


**SECTION 4. SERVICES, RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Goal: To ensure adequate services and resources are available within the community to encompass a whole of life approach to health and wellbeing for all age groups within the West Tamar.

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<tr>
<th>STRATEGY OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>EXTERNAL PARTNERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Foster collaboration and open dialogue between Council and health and community services organisations through interagency meetings at BDHS.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Communication through WTC CDO.</td>
<td>BDHS / BCHWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Liaise with appropriate services working with older residents from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds to promote the use of WTC facilities and to provide relevant information about services and resources in the West Tamar.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Liaise with the Migrant Resource Centre where appropriate. Identify potential community stakeholders or individuals relevant to positive ageing in the West Tamar. Identify potential opportunities for recreation or fitness programmes relevant to older residents in the West Tamar.</td>
<td>Migrant Resource Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Encourage and support programmes on issues relevant to “ageing in place”.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>See Actions in 2.5 and 2.7 above.</td>
<td>UTAS / UDRH / BCHWA / Beaconsfield House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Investigate the barriers to access and infrastructure constraints of providing wheelchair and disability friendly public transport services.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Meet with relevant stakeholders to discuss issues associated with the Strategy Objective.</td>
<td>DSG / UTAS / UDHR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Investigate funding opportunities to reduce the barriers around housing options for older people within the West Tamar, including issues associated with “ageing in place”.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Liaise where relevant with Council’s Development Services Department. Liaise where relevant with Housing Tasmania. Liaise where relevant with BDHS as well as health providers and aged care facilities in the West Tamar. Encourage the design and building of new homes that encompass principles of positive “ageing in place” within new subdivisions or retirement developments.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.6 Lobby relevant bodies through the WTCSG on the state and safety of the West Tamar Highway.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Lobby Council and relevant stakeholders on issues associated with the Strategy Objective.</td>
<td>DSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7 Lobby public transport providers and contractors for the development of more routes that connect suburbs, retirement and aged care facilities as well as for the provision of safer bus stops.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Provide transport providers/contractors with all relevant information from community consultation associated with the Strategy Objective.</td>
<td>Metro Tasmania / Manions’ Coaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTION</td>
<td>OUTCOME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaise with WTC RDO on identification of resources and opportunities for recreation, fitness and programmes within the West Tamar.</td>
<td>This is an ongoing project. A location for outdoor exercise equipment has been identified in Beaconsfield for the 2016/2017 financial year.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaise with Community groups and organisations running activities and programmes for older residents in the West Tamar.</td>
<td>No further action.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaise with the coordinator of the Active Launceston GOLD Program regarding opportunities for potential programs in the West Tamar.</td>
<td>No further action.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaise with WTC RDO and Community Services and Works Departments reviewed potential locations and installed outdoor exercise equipment throughout the municipality. Current locations as of March 2016 include: Riverside, Legana and Greens Beach. Passive walking tracks are also located throughout the municipality.</td>
<td>This is an ongoing project. A location for outdoor exercise equipment has been identified in Beaconsfield for the 2016/2017 financial year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaise with community groups and organisations within the municipality. The public has access to contacting these groups through the West Tamar Council Community Services Guide.</td>
<td>No further action.</td>
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<td>Action</td>
<td>Status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actively investigate the feasibility of a community garden at WCP,</td>
<td>The Windsor Community Garden commenced operation in 2015 and has</td>
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<tr>
<td>including partnership with other stakeholders (Liaise with Beaconsfield</td>
<td>continued to grow in 2016. This is an ongoing project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>House and Tresca regarding the development of a community garden at</td>
<td></td>
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<td>WCP). Investigate “Still Gardening” hub and “Gardening Mates”</td>
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<td>programmes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investigate the feasibility of establishing an “Active Retirees”</td>
<td>Legana Community Group Incorporated was formed based upon the</td>
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<td>programme/group at Legana.</td>
<td>Positive Ageing Strategy 2011-2015. The group continues to be active</td>
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<td></td>
<td>within the Legana community and surrounds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investigate the feasibility of developing initiatives such as full</td>
<td>No further action. Externally funded Men’s Sheds operating at three</td>
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<tr>
<td>access Men’s Sheds for addressing mental health issues and decreasing</td>
<td>locations in the municipality: Riverside (Cormiston Road), Exeter</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>social isolation amongst older men.</td>
<td>(Tresca Neighbourhood House) and Beaconsfield (Beaconsfield House).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lobby public transport providers to regularly service the Windsor</td>
<td>No further action. WT SAG to support local Men’s Shed initiatives</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Precinct.</td>
<td>where possible through network promotions.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence Council’s position in brokering health services such as</td>
<td>No further action. Lobbying of transport providers and State government</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Home and Community Care (HACC) and the Commonwealth Respite and Care</td>
<td>was unsuccessful.</td>
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<td>link Centre. Develop partnerships with Mental Health services</td>
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<td>are deemed the responsibility of State and Federal government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investigate the feasibility of a “Seniors’ Internet and Computer</td>
<td>The Windsor Computer Hub through Broadband For Seniors has been</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hub” at the Windsor Community Precinct.</td>
<td>successfully implemented at WCP and continues to grow in popularity.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>This is an ongoing project. WT SAG / WTC to continue promotion and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>development of this initiative.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
REFERENCES

2 Ibid, p. 97, 101
3 Ibid, p. 98
6 Natalie Jackson and Bruce Felmingham, p. 103
7 ABS 2013
9 Ibid.
10 Nicole Asquith, p. 255, 260
11 Ibid.
12 Ibid, p. 260
13 Natalie Jackson and Bruce Felmingham, p. 98
14 Nicole Asquith, p. 260
18 Nicole Asquith, pp. 255-6
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Council Offices Riverside
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Council Works Depot
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Windsor Community Precinct
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Postal Address:
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Phone: (03) 6383 6350
E-mail: wtc@wtc.tas.gov.au

The West Tamar Council Positive Ageing Strategy 2016-2021 was endorsed by Council on 17 May 2016 and is effective 1 July 2016 through to 30 June 2021.

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The West Tamar Municipal Area includes the western side of the Tamar River from the suburban area of Riverside in Launceston extending north to Bass Strait and as far west as Frankford.

West Tamar Council was inaugurated on the 2nd of April 1993 and is responsible for 689 square kilometres and 450 kilometres of road network. Council's offices are in Riverside, Exeter and Beaconsfield.

The major industries are tourism, retailing, agriculture, fishing, world class vineyards and first class maritime education facilities.

The valley has various natural attractions including the Narawntapu National Park, Notley Fern Gorge, Tamar Island Wetlands and the Tamar River. The valley has an abundance of historical attractions and points of interest that account for the foundation of Tasmania, in particular the York Town settlement site and the Beaconsfield Mine & Heritage Centre.

The Tamar River estuary and its tributaries are home to an abundance of birdlife and combined with its beautiful landscape the West Tamar is a peaceful and idyllic residential and rural setting.