

# CHILDREN'S MAYOR

WHAT WOULD YOU DO

IF YOU WERE MAYOR?

WHAT DO  
YOU THINK  
HOBART  
NEEDS?

TELL US AND  
LET'S SEE IF  
WE CAN MAKE  
IT HAPPEN  
TOGETHER!

SPEAK  
TO YOUR  
TEACHER  
TODAY!

GREAT PRIZES  
ON OFFER!

## SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK



To find out more, visit:  
[hobartcity.com.au/Childrens-Lord-Mayor](http://hobartcity.com.au/Childrens-Lord-Mayor)



City of HOBART

# Hobart Children’s Mayor Program

The Lord Mayor of Hobart, Councillor Anna Reynolds, invites Hobart primary schools to participate in the Children’s Mayor Program 2024.

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## SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK

This document provides information on the program, application forms and background on Local Government.

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## Program Overview

The Hobart Children's Mayor Program aims to encourage democratic awareness amongst primary school students, supporting greater understanding of Local Government, the democratic process and the role of elected representatives.

Students from primary schools in Hobart are encouraged to participate in the program by developing a short manifesto about how they would make Hobart a better city for children, starting with the line:

***"If I was Children's Mayor of Hobart I would..."***

The Lord Mayor of Hobart and her selection panel will choose the top two manifestos, nominating the first ever Hobart Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor. All Hobart schools will then be invited to participate in a reception and award presentation during Children's Week 2024. The winning students will have the opportunity to participate in a small number of official duties alongside the Lord Mayor and/or her delegate.

## School Participation

Schools can tailor their participation to suit their schedule and their students. Participation is open to all primary school aged children, with content best suited to grades 3-6. The program outlined below provides suggestions for schools to consider.

- 1. Introduce the Program and the Role of Local Government:** Schools may wish to provide students with a lesson on the role of local government using the resources in this pack and online. For some schools this may fit well with the year 6 curriculum on governance, but the information can be tailored to any grade level. Alternatively, schools may simply share the information for students to participate in their own time.
- 2. Encourage Participation:** Schools are asked to encourage students to consider what they would do if they were the Lord Mayor of Hobart. Students should present their thoughts in a 'Manifesto'. This can be provided in written form, as artwork or in a digital format. Creative responses are encouraged. A short summary of their response should be included in the entry form. Teachers may create time for students to craft their responses in class time, or simply encourage students to complete the work at home.

There may be an opportunity for the Lord Mayor, Elected Members or staff to attend a school assembly to present the program to students if the school considers that this would be beneficial. Please contact us if you would like to progress a visit.

- 3. School Selection:** Schools are then asked to select two students for progression to formal judging.

***Schools may wish to have students vote for their preferred manifestos.***

Alternatively, class teachers or the principal may prefer to select the winning manifestos. Each school then submit their chosen manifestos to the Lord Mayor's office.

- 4. Lord Mayor Selection:** A panel including the Lord Mayor and other City officials will consider all manifesto's and award a winner and a runner up. The student who authors the winning manifesto will be given the title of Hobart Children's Mayor 2024. The runner-up will be named Hobart Children's Deputy Mayor 2024. There may be also highly commended certificates awarded.
- 5. Children's Week Reception:** Delegates from every primary school in Hobart will be invited to attend the Lord Mayor's Reception for Children at the Hobart Town Hall during Children's Week in October. Each school's selected students will be invited to present their 'manifesto' (2 minutes max) during the reception. The winners will be announced and the new Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor officially appointed.

Please note - schools that do not wish to participate in the Mayor for the Day activity are still welcome to come to the Lord Mayor's Reception.

- 6. Children's Mayor Activities:** The Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor will then be invited to spend an afternoon with the Lord Mayor in November 2024. They will attend meetings and witness first hand, a day in the life of the Hobart Lord Mayor. Additionally, there will be an opportunity for students to attend the council chambers and present their manifesto to either a Council meeting or to the City's Annual General Meeting. The title of Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor will remain in place until October 2024.

## **Terms and Conditions**

- Participation is open to all primary schools in the Hobart LGA.
- Students do not need to reside in Hobart, but must be currently enrolled in a Hobart school.
- Students of all ages are welcome to participate (noting that content may be most suitable for grades 3-6).
- Each school may only submit two manifestos for consideration by the selection panel.
- Students entering will ideally be available for official events on 25 October and 27 November (key dates below).

- Schools that do not wish to participate in the Mayor for the Day activity are still welcome to come to the Lord Mayors Reception.
- The selection panel's decision is final.

Key Dates	Activity
April / May 2024	Information packs distributed to schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schools share the opportunity with posters (included in packs) on school walls, in parent and guardian newsletters, social media and websites so parents can also talk with their kids about the program.</li> <li>- Schools play the video to year 3-6 children to further promote the opportunity and show what previous winners did</li> </ul>
June – August 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schools continue to promote the opportunity to students via classroom activities, assembly, newsletter or other options.</li> <li>- Opportunity for schools to come and do a tour of Town Hall with the Lord Mayor to help enhance their understanding of local government.</li> </ul>
Early September 2024	School run own process to select up to ten of its' best 'manifesto' / nominees
13 September 2024	Children's Mayor Program submissions close
23 October 2024	Children's Week Reception (all Hobart schools welcome) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A well known guest speaker will attend also.</li> </ul>
November 2024	Afternoon as Children's Mayor, followed by Council Meeting/AGM to present manifesto (Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor plus 10 runner ups to make a 'full' council) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Media will be invited to capture photos of our winners in action in the chambers and share the two manifestos from the 'Mayor' and 'Deputy Mayor'.</li> </ul>



City of **HOBART**

## **Hobart Children's Mayor Program**

### **Student Information Sheet**

*This year the City of Hobart will elect a new Hobart Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This could be YOU!*

The Hobart Children's Mayor and Deputy Children's Mayor will have the chance to spend the day with the Lord Mayor of Hobart and present their ideas at a Council meeting or AGM in the Town Hall. To have a chance of being elected, we need you to tell us one key thing you would do if you were the Mayor of Hobart. You will also need to fill in the form below and give it to your class teacher.

Here are some ideas for you to think about when choosing the issue that you will tackle as Mayor. These are some ideas to assist you get started. You are also free to choose a topic that is not in the list below that you feel passionately about:

- building new roads, parks or other great things in the City
- helping children and young people feel safe
- holding exciting events for the community
- tackling bullying within schools, the community or online
- protecting the environment
- planning for a great future city (will there be flying cars or lots more people?)
- preparing people for a bushfire or flood
- making new artwork for children in the city
- creating a new way to empty rubbish bins

Make sure you only choose one topic and idea (otherwise we might get confused!)

You can show us your idea through writing, artwork or through a digital presentation. Just remember to include a short-written summary in the entry form as well.

Have fun and do your best!

## Entry Form & Permissions

FULL NAME	
SCHOOL	
DATE OF BIRTH	
GENDER	
MEDIA CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form.
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	
<b>Your Idea (no more than 200 words)</b>	
<i>“If I was Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart I would...”</i>	

**How will your idea make a difference and who will it benefit? (no more than 200 words)**

*“My idea will help...”*

**How can others in your community including other children help with your idea ( no more than 100 words)**

*“Others can help by...”*





## City of **HOBART**

### Media/Talent Release Form

1. **First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Surname:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Postal Address:**

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3. **Contact Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Release

I hereby authorise the Hobart City Council and their licencees and associates permission to use my image/s and I authorise the reproduction of any or all images in any form or composite representation by Hobart City Council and its licencees and associates without further compensation to me. All images shall remain the property of the Hobart City Council in all forms.

I am over the age of 18 years:      **Yes**      **No** [cross out the incorrect option]

If **No** - Signature of Parent/Guardian is required below.

I am the parent / guardian of the minor named above and have legal authority to make the above release.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Internal administration*

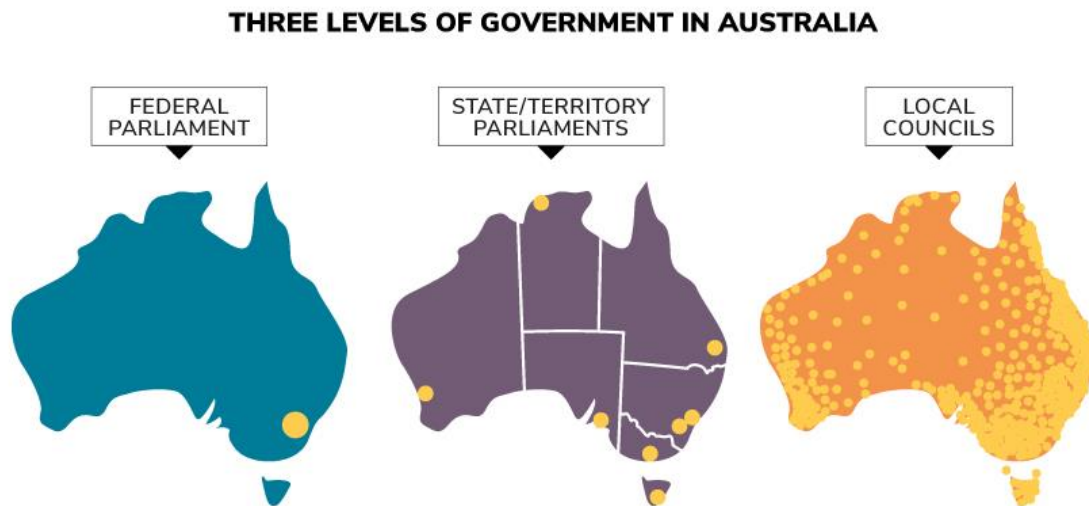
Photography project and year:

Photographer:

Description of image composition \_\_\_\_\_

# Three Levels of Government: Governing Australia

In Australia the three levels of government work together to provide us with the services we need. This section explores the roles and responsibilities of each level, how they raise money and how they work together. Case studies show how the powers of the Australian Parliament have expanded.



Three levels of government in Australia. PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE (PEO.GOV.AU)

Australia has three levels of government that work together to provide us with the services we need. The three levels are:

- federal parliament — makes laws for the whole of Australia
- 6 state and 2 mainland territory parliaments — make laws for their state or territory
- over 500 local councils — make local laws (by-laws) for their region or district.

The federal and state governments are established under the Australian Constitution. How the federal and state parliaments (Governments) work together is sometimes referred to as the division of powers. Each level of government has its own responsibilities, although in some cases these responsibilities are shared.

Australians, aged 18 years and over, vote to elect representatives to federal, state and territory parliaments, and local councils to make decisions on their behalf. This means Australians have someone to represent them at each level of government.

This video gives a broad overview of the three levels of government:

[https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/explore/education/factsheets/Factsheet\\_1.1\\_ThreeLevelsOfGovt.pdf](https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/explore/education/factsheets/Factsheet_1.1_ThreeLevelsOfGovt.pdf)

## Test your knowledge!

Do you know what each level of government is responsible for? Test your knowledge of the three levels of government in Australia with this game developed by the Parliamentary Education Office by following this link below

<https://peo.gov.au/understand-our-parliament/how-parliament-works/three-levels-of-government/federal-state-and-local/>

## Who Does What?

Source: [The Roles and Responsibilities of Federal, State and Local Governments \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/education/parliamentary-education-office/understanding-our-parliament/roles-responsibilities-federal-state-local-governments)

It is not always easy to know which government is responsible for which service. Although the Federal Government is probably better known to many of us, the everyday things we do usually have more to do with our State or Local Governments.

The below table has some examples for you.

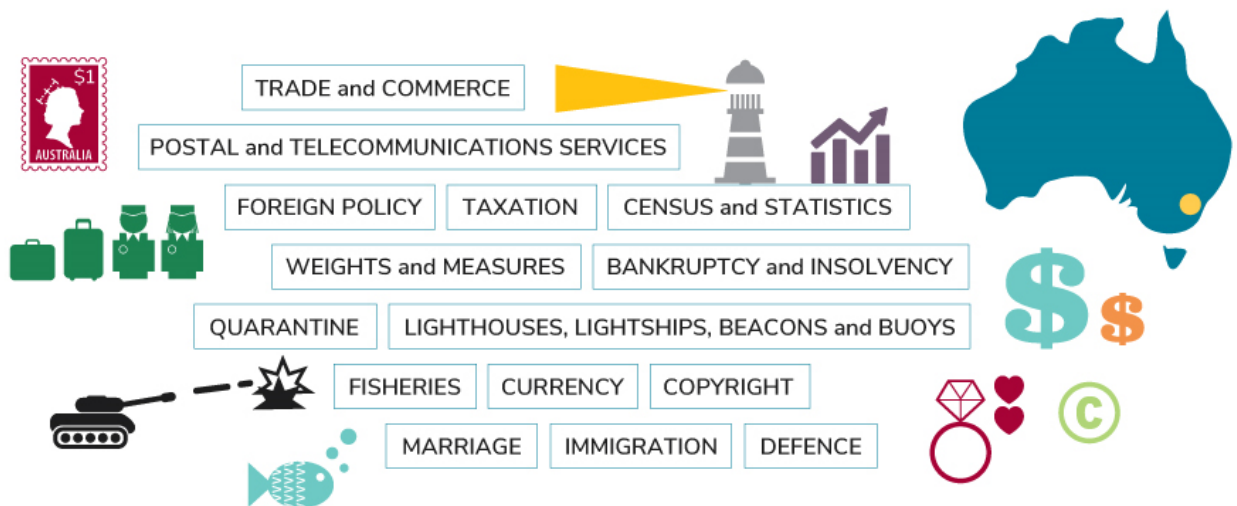
Things you might do in a day...	...and which level of government gets involved.		
	Federal Government	State Government	Local Government
<i>Shower and get ready for school</i>		• Power, gas, water, sewerage from State corporations	
<i>Have breakfast</i>	• Currency • Trade, imports & exports • Advertising	• Consumer laws • Shop and workplace laws	• Health inspections of shops
<i>Catch the bus</i>	• National road funding	• Buses, bus passes • Traffic laws, Police • Traffic lights, Road signs • Major roads, road taxes	• Local roads • Street signs • Bus stops
<i>Go to school</i>	• Funding to States • Higher education	• Education Department • School funding and subjects	• Local kindergartens and pre-schools
<i>Go to the library</i>	• National Library	• State Library • School libraries • Subsidies to councils	• Local libraries
<i>Play sport</i>	• Australian Institute of Sport • National sports bodies	• State sports centre • Funding to local councils • Safety, health and education	• Local sports fields and playgrounds
<i>Phone a friend</i>	• Telephone services		
<i>Watch TV</i>	• Broadcasting laws • ABC TV and Radio		
<i>Go to the doctor</i>	• Medicare • Funding to States • Drug control	• Hospitals • Ambulance services	• Community services, e.g. meals on wheels
<i>Go home</i>		• Planning laws	• Local building controls • Trees and footpaths
<i>Put out the garbage</i>	• International treaties and national environmental policies	• Waste disposal • Pollution controls	• Garbage collection • Local environment

Source: [The Roles and Responsibilities of Federal, State and Local Governments \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/education/parliamentary-education-office/understanding-our-parliament/roles-responsibilities-federal-state-local-governments)

# Federal Government

Source: <https://www.familiesmagazine.com.au/politics-facts-for-kids/>

- Federal Government makes decisions to do with our whole nation.
- The leader of the government is the Prime Minister.
- There are two houses – the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- The Australian constitution (the laws that make up our nation) says we have to have a federal election every three years.
- The House of Representatives is made up of people called ‘members’. There are 150 of them and they each represent an electorate (voting area) in Australia.
- People in the Senate are called senators. They represent an entire state or territory. There are 12 for every state and 2 for each territory. State senators can keep their jobs for six years and territory senators can have them for three.
- Federal government looks after social security, industrial relations, foreign affairs, trade, immigration and protecting our country.



The law-making powers of the federal Parliament. PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE (PEO.GOV.AU)

# State and Territory Governments

Source: <https://www.familiesmagazine.com.au/politics-facts-for-kids/>

- There is a Parliament House in each state.
- Every state parliament (except Queensland) is made up of two houses.
- Members in the upper house are on the Legislative Assembly, House of Assembly or Legislative Council.
- The leader of each state is called the Premier.
- In the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, there is only one house – Legislative Assembly.
- The leader of each territory is called the Chief Minister.
- State government looks after consumer affairs, education, public transport and roads, health, consumer affairs and justice.



The law-making powers of the state parliaments. PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE (PEO.GOV.AU)

# Local Governments / City Councils

Source: <https://www.familiesmagazine.com.au/politics-facts-for-kids/>

- These are usually called city council or shire council.
- They look after the needs of a city or a local community.
- Representatives at this level are called aldermen or councillors.
- The head of the council is called the Mayor or the Shire President.
- Local government looks after local road maintenance, garbage collection, regulations and subdivisions, public health and local facilities like pools and libraries.



The law-making powers of local government. PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE (PEO.GOV.AU)

# What does Local Government do?

There are over 500 local government bodies across Australia. They are often called councils, municipalities or shires. Local governments consist of 2 groups who serve the needs of local communities:

- elected members, who normally have 4-year terms
- staff who work for the council.

On average each council has 9 elected members who are usually called councillors or aldermen, while the chair or head of the council is usually called the mayor or president. The Hobart City Council has 12 Elected Members. These smaller legislative bodies make by-laws about local matters and provide services.

For example, councils are responsible for:

- local roads, footpaths, cycle ways, street signage and lighting
- waste management, including rubbish collection and recycling
- parking
- recreational facilities such as parks, sports fields and swimming pools
- cultural facilities, including libraries, art galleries and museums
- services such as childcare and aged care
- sewerage
- town planning
- building approvals and inspections
- land and coast care programs
- pet control.

One of the main tasks of local government is to regulate - manage - services and activities. For example, councils are responsible for traffic lights, and dog and cat registration. These tasks would be difficult for a state government to manage because they are local issues.

Councils can deliver services adapted to the needs of the community they serve. For instance, the needs of residents in inner-city Brisbane might be different to those of people living in rural Queensland. By providing these services and facilities, councils make sure local communities work well from day-to-day.

From the 1840s, colonial parliaments began to hand over responsibility for local issues to local councils. The first council was established in Adelaide in 1840, followed in 1842 by the City of Sydney and Town of Melbourne councils. From the 1850s onwards, the number of elected councils grew rapidly.

Today, local authorities include city councils in urban centres, and regional and shire councils in rural areas. On average each council looks after about 28 400 people. The largest council by population is Brisbane City Council which is responsible for a population of nearly 1.2 million. The Shire of East Pilbara in Western Australia is the largest local authority area.



Local councils are not mentioned in the Australian Constitution, although each state has a local government Act - law - that provides the rules for the creation and operation of councils.

While these Acts vary from state to state, in general they cover how councils are elected and their power to make and enforce local laws, known as by-laws. A by-law is a form of delegated legislation because the state government delegates - gives - to councils the authority to make laws on specific matters. As councils derive their powers from state parliaments, council by-laws may be overruled by state laws.

## How did local government develop?

Source: <https://www.sydneytownhall.com.au/discover-learn/schools/local-government/>

Long before the arrival of Europeans, the Australian Aboriginal people had their own form of local government whereby elders made decisions on behalf of their tribes. Following the arrival of Europeans, a formal system of local government was established first, followed by state and federal government. Adelaide was the first city to elect a council, followed by Sydney and Melbourne (then part of New South Wales) in 1842.

## How does the Council work?

Source: <https://www.sydneytownhall.com.au/discover-learn/schools/local-government/>

The lord mayor of a council is elected as a representative of a local government area at a general election held every four years. Councils appoint a general manager or chief executive officer (formerly a town clerk) to carry out their decisions and manage the administrative staff who provide advice to council and implement council policies and decisions. To do this, council staff prepare reports, investigate the legal responsibilities and inform and consult with the community. Councils also employ staff who work as administration officers, librarians, plant and equipment operators, planners, inspectors, engineers, community workers, environmental officers, horticulture workers and recreation officers.

The mayoral office carries with it responsibilities including running and chairing the meetings of council, acting as the spokesperson of the council at community events or in the media, carrying out civic duties such as citizenship ceremonies and working with the chief executive officer on council business.

# The City of Hobart

Hobart is Tasmania's capital city and is the nation's second oldest and southern most Capital City, settled in 1804. The City of Hobart is Tasmania's capital city council.

The City of Hobart has five main areas of work divided into 'Divisions'. These are:

- **Connected City** – looks after community programs (supporting community through programs and activities), community resilience and recovery (disaster and emergencies) tourism (travel and tourism centre), economic development (business support), environmental health (immunisation and food safety), project design and delivery and smart and sustainable Hobart (electric vehicles, street lights).
- **City Life** – manages all planning and development (new buildings or changes to old ones), looks after parks and bushland (from the beaches to the mountain), roads, public toilets and other city infrastructure (like park benches community buildings).
- **City Enablers** – city infrastructure (creates new and looks after existing city places - shopping areas, footpaths, keeps things clean, collects rubbish), human resources (managing staff), information technology (computer systems), governance (arranging Council meetings and agendas and supporting Elected Members) legal services (legal advice).
- **City Futures** – strategic planning for future Hobart (new plans for areas of Hobart), creative Hobart (public art and events), city mobility (traffic and parking), design lab (ideas to address big issues).
- **Thriving City** – develops strategic ideas and advocacy for the City, works with other levels of Government on city shaping projects, manages the grants program (grants across several areas).

## The Role of Elected Members

The Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor along with 10 elected members (known as Alderman or Councillors) make up the City of Hobart's elected body 'the Council'. These positions are all elected for a four-year terms.

The latest City of Hobart elections were held in October 2022. The next City of Hobart elections are scheduled to be held in October 2026.

The primary role of an elected member is to make decisions and develop policies that guide the activities of the local government. People look to their elected representatives for leadership and guidance. Elected members can provide this by putting forward options and presenting arguments or possible solutions to problems at council meetings. Local government elected members are accountable to the council and to the electors of the local government district.

Current elected members for Hobart are: Lord Mayor Councillor Anna M. Reynolds, Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor (vacant as of April 2024), Alderman Marti Zucco, Councillor Bill Harvey, Councillor Will Coates, Councillor Mike Dutta, Councillor Dr Zelinda Sherlock, Councillor John Kelly, Councillor Louise Elliot, Alderman Louise Bloomfield, Councillor Ryan Posselt and Councillor Ben Lohberger.

For more information on the Hobart elected members:

[www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/Elected-Members/Current-Elected-Members](http://www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/Elected-Members/Current-Elected-Members).

## The Role of the Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor is elected by the people and is recognised as the civic leader of the community.

The Lord Mayor is one of the 12 elected members. The Lord Mayor presides over the council meetings and manages the conduct of participants at these meetings. When the Lord Mayor is unavailable, a Deputy Lord Mayor can act in her/his place. Similar to the Lord Mayor, the role of Deputy Lord Mayor is elected by a popular vote.

The role of the Lord Mayor is empowered with functions under the Local Government Act 1993. These functions include:

- to act as a leader of the community of the municipal area
- to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office
- to promote good governance by, and within, the Council
- to act as chairperson of the Council and to chair meetings of the Council in a manner that supports decision-making processes
- to act as the spokesperson for the Council
- to represent the Council on regional organisations and at intergovernmental forums at regional, state and federal levels
- to lead and participate in the appointment, and the monitoring of the performance, of the general manager
- to liaise with the general manager on:
  - the activities of the Council and the performance and exercise of its functions and powers
  - the activities of the general manager and the performance and exercise of powers in supporting the Council.

The current Lord Mayor of Hobart is Anna Reynolds and the Deputy Lord Mayor will be re elected in late April 2024 due to Cr. Helen Burnett being elected to State government.

# Council and Committee meetings

Source: <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/council-elections/the-role-of-a-council-member>

Generally, local government council members (including the Lord Mayor) do not have any authority to act or make decisions as individuals. They are members of an elected body that makes decisions on behalf of a local government through a formal meeting process called Council and Committee Meetings.

If a council member is present at a council meeting, he or she has a duty to vote on all matters before that meeting, unless he or she has a financial interest in the matter.

It is important for councillors to read the agenda items and officers' reports before the council meeting. Without this background reading, it is extremely difficult for councillors to effectively assess issues and provide constructive input to council debate and decision making. Councillors must set aside adequate time for preparation prior to each council meeting. Each council member has a right to be paid meeting attendance fees.

## How to Find out More

Members of the public can attend all ordinary council meetings and certain committee meetings. They also have the right to access certain local government records and information, including:

- the register of financial interests;
- minutes of council and committee meetings;
- agenda, notice papers, reports, and other documents that will be tabled at a meeting;
- maps showing the district and ward boundaries; and
- local laws.

The best place to watch Hobart City Council meetings is via the City of Hobart's [YouTube Channel](#).

All the meeting dates for the year are advertised in the Mercury in January and are available on the website at any time. [Meeting Schedule for Council and Committees page](#). These dates may change so always double-check closer to the date of the meeting you are interested in.

Copies of agendas for open meetings are available at the meeting or beforehand on the Hobart City Council website or the Town Hall reception. Minutes of meetings are available on Hobart City Council website once they have been endorsed and signed at the next ordinary meeting.