

## Message from Chamber

Hello and welcome to the 8th edition of the North East Tasmania Chamber of Commerce newsletter. This summer season has been warm and dry, offering the perfect climate for our visitors and holidaymakers, and we hope it has been a prosperous season for all our businesses.

We started off the year with two stimulating and informative guest speakers. Tony Saunders from Woolnorth Renewables presented at our February meeting. He spoke about the turbines, Eagle protocol, workforce and community engagement. Tom Wilcox of North East Wind (ACEN Australia) presented to our members in March, the proposed Wind Farm project in the North East, detailing the infrastructure involved, costs, timeframe and expectations of the project. Tony and Tom were engaged with discussions afterwards and both presentations were enlightening and interesting. You can find a summary of Tony's presentation inside this newsletter.

Last year, Chamber was fortunate to obtain a pre-election Liberal commitment which we are now at the early stage of development. These funds will allow us to provide mentoring and personal development programs to businesses and host Chamber events for members and special guests. More information about these programs and events will be advertised throughout the year. Our next Chamber – Out and About event in May, will be at the Bridestowe Lavender Estate.

In March, the Chamber offered to the community, the opportunity to meet and ask questions to the three Mayor candidates, important and relevant issues concerning the Dorset region and its future. This initiative was aimed at fostering a deeper connection between the residents and their potential leaders, ensuring that the voices and concerns of the community are heard and addressed. Mick Tucker, Mayor of Break-O-Day Council and LCAT President, was the Moderator and the meeting was well attended by the community. Thank you to Fiona Auton and Sue for organising this event.

Chambers aim to support growth, engagement, and prosperity for all Dorset businesses in 2025. We appreciate and thank the community for supporting local businesses and jobs.

**Maria Branch**  
President



• Meet the Candidates community event held at the Mechanic's Hall on March 18, 2025.

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# BRIDGET ARCHER

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR **BASS**

*Supporting our North East Business Community*



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Authorised by Bridget Archer MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 100 St John Street, Launceston TAS 7250.

# Dorset Council – a bright future ahead

Thank you for the opportunity to share a few of my thoughts and comments with your members.

As a new council, the important task in front of us is to build trust and relationships both within council and with the wider community. Dorset Council has been in a unique situation: suspension for approximately 18 months, followed by 6 resignations including Mayor and Deputy Mayor, new councillors through countbacks and an announced election for Mayor with three contesting candidates. Nevertheless, both staff and councillors have ensured that there has been a smooth transition



from Commissioner Andrew Wardlaw's stewardship and our own.

As Acting Mayor, I want to ensure you that Dorset Councillors have taken on these challenges and that both staff and councillors are working well and adapting to the circumstances. Councillors are being well prepared with the local government training modules available through online learning packages which are geared for the leadership roles required.

In our view, engagement with the Dorset Community is integral for the review of our identified priorities, plans and budgetary considerations, as is the upskilling of our new councillors. This will occupy the council agenda over the coming months.

We understand that Innovation and development can only occur in partnerships, and Dorset Council looks forward to a more inclusive engagement with stakeholders and the community generally. This where the NE Chamber of Commerce fits in. The entrepreneurs, small businesses and innovators are the active players in any community such as ours. The transition from our old council to our new council is a challenge that we are ready for and we are keen to work

with you. All councillors are putting in the work already and are prepared.

We are also dealing with proposed legislative changes. The Tasmanian government is committed to developing a new and more flexible statutory framework for local government elections with the view to introduce a bill into the parliament in the spring session, 2025. Discussions include the manner of electing deputy mayors which currently is based on popular vote instead of "around the table" as is the case when a casual vacancy occurs. Tasmania is the only state where the deputy mayor is popularly elected. Another reform proposal is to move the administration of the general managers roll from councils to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission and to implement the principle of 'one person, one vote'. Following the Future of Local Government Review, the Tasmanian Government has endorsed the institution of compulsory pre-nomination training. This is a welcome proposal that will help to ensure quality representation when elections come round again in 2026.

Dorset has a bright future ahead.

**Edwina Powell**  
Acting Mayor, Dorset Council

## Join Us Become a NETCC member!

Become a NETCC member to enhance your business and connect with industry peers. Members receive various benefits, free workshops and events to support their business, expand their professional

network, and contribute to the local business community. Joining is easy. Visit our website for details and to complete the online form.

<https://netcc.org.au/become-a-member>

**JESS TEESDALE**  
*bringing opportunity to Bass*

*"I'm determined to create a Tasmania where no one feels they have to leave to succeed." - Jess Teesdale*

**Labor**

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🌐 jessestesdale.com.au

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## Updated grant writing resources

The Business Tasmania Grant Writing Handbook and other useful information is available on the Business Tasmania website, along with a newly updated video from a recent grant writing workshop, 'Grant Writing Made Easy'.

These resources are designed to assist businesses with what they most need to know when applying for grants, particularly through a government department.

For further assistance, businesses can access free one-on-one guidance through the Tasmanian Business Advice Service. While advisors do not write grant applications, they can offer invaluable advice and direction to improve the quality of applications.

**For more information and to access grant writing resources visit:**

[www.business.tas.gov.au/managing/grant-writing](http://www.business.tas.gov.au/managing/grant-writing)

**To connect with a business advisor visit:**

[www.businessadvice.tas.gov.au/](http://www.businessadvice.tas.gov.au/)



# Woolnorth Renewables - Investment & Community

The Musselroe Wind Farm, located in the Dorset Municipality, is owned and operated by Woolnorth Renewables, a joint venture between the Chinese company Shenhua Clean Energy (75%) and Hydro Tasmania (25%). Formed in 2012, the joint venture own three wind farms in Tasmania - Bluff Point, Studland Bay, and Musselroe, with a combined generating capacity of 306 MW, 9% of the state's electricity.

The Musselroe Wind Farm is situated on Cape Portland, a 5,500-hectare property at the northeastern tip of Tasmania. It is managed in partnership with long-term licensee Poulson Enterprises, which runs a cattle breeding operation with 2,500 head of livestock on the property.

The wind farm consists of 56 Vestas wind turbines, covering just 1% of the property. Each turbine includes an 80-meter tower, three 44-meter blades, and a 75-tonne nacelle housing key equipment like the gearbox, generator, and transformer. Together, the 56 turbines produce around 500 gigawatt-hours of power annually. The wind farm connects to the National Energy Market (NEM) via a 48 km transmission line and a grid connection in Derby.

With a \$400 million investment in Tasmania and the Dorset Municipality, the Musselroe Wind Farm remains the largest ratepayer in the region. It also employs 10 full-time local staff and engages local contractors for road

maintenance, mechanical and electrical services, building maintenance, and support services like cleaning, meals, and accommodation.

Woolnorth Renewables actively collaborates with various community and research groups who access the property for activities such as landscape connection, land scape and geoheritage studies, flora and fauna monitoring and management and occasionally researchers looking to discover new species. A significant portion of the land is managed for conservation purposes.

The company also provides long-term sponsorship for local initiatives, contributing approximately \$30,000 annually to the community. Sponsored initiatives include the Gladstone Christmas Raffle, Bridport Surf Life Saving Club, Scottsdale Show, Field Study Centre, and the Scottsdale Rotary Rail Trail Run/Ride. Additionally, Woolnorth supports school bursaries at Scottsdale and Winnaleah High Schools and has been a key corporate sponsor of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, funding mobile dental buses that serve the Dorset area.

In 2024, Woolnorth invested \$8.3 million in the IdentiFlight system, which uses high-precision cameras and AI-based image recognition to identify protected bird species, such as

wedge-tailed eagles. Integrated with the wind farm's operating system, this technology can quickly halt turbines when birds are at risk of collision.

Looking ahead, Woolnorth is developing future opportunities, including a battery storage project at Derby, potential greenfield energy generation options, and the repowering of its wind farms in the North West. Woolnorth Renewables is committed to continued investment and involvement in the local community for many years to come.

**Tony Saunders**  
Supervisor, Woolnorth Renewables





## employer of choice



**Employer of Choice Assist is a free service providing tailored assistance to small businesses in Tasmania.**

**Whether you need a little bit of assistance or a lot – Employer of Choice Assist is here to help.**

### What can we assist with?

- Creating and maintaining a mentally healthy workplace
- Assistance to attract new employees
- Tools and ideas on how to retain employees in your business for longer
- Advice and assistance to understand Fair Work and industrial relations requirements
- Development or review of human resource or workforce related policies and procedures including induction and employee performance reviews
- Workplace culture – building and maintaining a positive and productive culture in your workplace
- Advice and assistance on being recognised as an Employer of Choice

### How we can help:

- Workplace visits / online / telephone
- Workforce diagnostics reports including recommendations
- Coaching and mentoring
- Templates for policies and procedures
- Connection to Regional Jobs Hub Network
- Referrals to other specialist business supports
- Workshops on workforce topics

More info



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## Protect yourself against impersonation scams

These scams are designed to look like they're from legitimate organisations that you know, like your bank, a Government Agency, a business that you deal with, or even a scammer pretending to be a friend or family member.

By pretending to be from someone that you trust, scammers use a sense of urgency to trick you into paying money or providing personal information, such as passwords, credit card or banking details.

To help you learn more about how to protect yourself from impersonation scams, you can download a free guide issued by the Australian Government. The link is:

[beconnected.esafety.gov.au/download-free-scams-guide](https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/download-free-scams-guide)

Chamber Event



## Chamber Out & About – Bridestowe Lavender Estate

This event will take place at Bridestowe Lavender Estate on Monday, May 5th, at 5:30 pm. Kim Weston will be giving a presentation, followed by a distillery tour and a light supper.

This event is free for members, with special guests invited. Non-members are welcome to attend but will need to register their interest via email at: [chairman@netcc.org.au](mailto:chairman@netcc.org.au).

# Discover the beauty of Bridestowe Lavender Estate all year round.

### Flowering Season December - January

Entry Charge during flowering season. **Free entry remaining months of the year.**



03 6352 8182  
296 Gillespies Road  
Nabowla TAS 7260  
[bridestowelavender.com.au](http://bridestowelavender.com.au)



**Bridestowe**  
Lavender Estate





# Spotlighting on members - The House Paddock

The House Paddock has been a concept Fiona & Scott Auton ruminated on for many years before making the decision to invest in the town of Scottsdale, Tasmania.

25 years ago, they had a small café in King Street, which they sold after years of successful operation after they decided to start a family. However, the journey they went on many years ago with their former business Café on King left them feeling unfinished.

After years of watching the market of Tasmanian grown and/or made products

grow, they decided it was time for a range of reasons. They wanted to create a true providore and café which had the opportunity for general homewares and giftware. As the island has developed much further with the branding of its own image and product export lines there were now a broad range of Tasmanian products and suppliers to connect with. The desire to create a providore and truly independent grocery shopping opportunity in the area, led them to their decision to create their new business, The House Paddock in King Street, Scottsdale.

There were a few items on the checklist for the couple, such as good parking and easy access, an open and well lit space, as well as the opportunity for expansion should the business need to down the line. The Scottsdale Art Gallery & Framing building (which was also for sale) ticked all the boxes!

Tourism Tasmania data has shown consistently over many years, that Scottsdale is a town many pass through instead of stop and stay. However, with the creation of Blue Derby, a newly renovated free admission Aquatic Centre and The Rail Trail Bike Track nearing completion this image is slowly changing. Creating a shopping experience that is a day-trip destination as well as something to hold tourists in the town longer is certainly something the couple are firmly focused on.



• The House Paddock  
42 King Street, Scottsdale  
Open 8am-6pm | 7 Days



Find us  
on  
Facebook!

North East Tas  
Chamber of  
Commerce

Janie  
**FINLAY.**  
Labor Member for Bass



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## Useful Contacts

All Emergency Services  
Fire 000  
Police 000  
Ambulance 000

NESM Hospital 6778 8522  
Ochre Medical 6352 2522

Tas Police (Non-urgent)  
131 444

Parks & Wildlife Scottsdale  
Field Centre 6352 6421

Service Tas 1300 135 513

TasNetworks  
Power Outage 132 004

TCCI 1300 559 112

North-Eastern  
Advertiser 6352 2642

To find a Justice of the Peace in your area, go to:  
<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/commissioners-for-declarations-and-justices-of-the-peace/justice-of-the-peace/find>

## Chamber Meetings

NETCC Meetings are held the first Monday of the month (except long weekends).

For more information visit our website:  
[netcc.org.au](http://netcc.org.au)




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*Local business,  
Local jobs*



## Regional Tech Hub

### WHAT WE DO



Provide free, independent advice and support for rural, regional and remote individuals, businesses and communities on internet and voice options.

### WHO WE ARE



Australian Government initiative run by the National Farmers' Federation. Regionally-based team located around Australia.

### HOW WE HELP



Free advice on getting connected, improving a connection, switching to a better or cheaper service, or finding out how to boost or get better internet and mobile coverage.

### OUR SERVICES



Individualised connectivity reports  
Escalations service  
Online Connectivity Resource Hub  
Attend community events  
Book-in service to discuss issues

### CONTACT US



Website: [www.regionaltechhub.org.au](http://www.regionaltechhub.org.au)  
Phone: 1300 081 029  
Email: [helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au](mailto:helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/RegionalTechHub](https://facebook.com/RegionalTechHub)



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