



**Flinders Island  
Capital Works  
Funding Opportunity**

**Northern Tasmania Economic Stimulus  
Package - Loan Scheme**



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## 1 Executive Summary

The release of the Northern Tasmania Economic Stimulus Package and specifically the ability for local Councils to access funding to bring forward capital works programs is an ideal opportunity for Flinders Council to prioritise its capital works program and through the identification of projects that can significantly support an improved economy, apply for funding to deliver these projects and optimise the economic opportunities sooner than planned.

In line with its Strategic Plan Flinders Council has identified a number of projects that it believes meet the Northern Tasmania Economic Stimulus Package criteria; these projects are:

- A Putrescible cell for waste management at the landfill site (Whitemark).
- BBQ and Public Toilets at the North East River.
- BBQ and Public Toilets at Cameron's Inlet.
- The development of the Lagoon Road block (Access and amenities).
- The 'Stabilisation' of Council gravel Roads.
- Bridge Railing Replacement Program.
- Township Footpaths Program.

A Business Case will be developed that will as a minimum:

- Provide a detailed description of each project.
- Detail expected capital costs and the timing of cash outflows.
- Detail the planned original project delivery timing and proposed new delivery timing.
- Provide a summary of expected employment opportunities and the anticipated economic impacts.
- Detail the planned procurement process and timing, including the commencement date of construction.
- Provide information regarding the period for which interest support is being requested and the amount of that assistance (based on the loan repayment schedule).
- Any other relevant information that supports the funding application.

The availability of funding to expedite the delivery of projects that meet Flinders Council strategic objectives is a unique opportunity that must be pursued to support the Council's vision and objectives.

## 2 Flinders Council Strategic Plan

The Flinders Council Strategic Plan is a ten year plan that was developed and executed in September 2015. The Strategic Plan outlines strategic areas of focus and what the Flinders Council aims to achieve through implementing its vision:

*"To retain our lifestyle and unique landscapes through positive leadership that encourages innovation, population growth, asset attraction, partnerships, and improved health and wellbeing for our community".*



The Strategic plan is supported by a long term Asset Management Plan, Annual Plans and supporting budgets. The Annual Plan developed each year articulates objectives, actions and resources required for a twelve month period aligned with the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic plan highlights that investment in social and community infrastructure that supports social gatherings, improved accessibility and increased liveability are a priority for Flinders Council and underpin island life.

Projects identified as meeting the strategic objectives and planned for delivery through the Asset Management Plan meet the criteria to pursue funding from the Northern Tasmania Economic Stimulus Package to 'fast track' delivery.

### **3 Northern Tasmania Stimulus Package**

In September 2016, the Tasmanian State Government announced the release of the Northern Tasmania Economic Stimulus Package to stimulate the economy and create jobs. A component of the economic stimulus package is to incentivise Local Government Capital Works. Essentially Local Councils in the North and North-West of Tasmania have access to funding at no cost, to bring forward capital works programs. This financial incentive will enable Councils to accelerate their existing planned five year capital spend with no financial disadvantage.

The economic stimulus package funding of \$60 million is now available for Councils to access on a "first-come-first-served" basis. The Government will fund the interest incurred by Councils in the period between when they draw down borrowings and the time at which they had otherwise planned to fund the projects themselves.

The State Government predicts that if the \$60 million in funding is fully taken up by Councils, it could potentially support over 700 direct and indirect jobs.

## **4 Projects**

The following projects have been identified as substantially meeting the Northern Tasmania Economic Stimulus loan criteria. Final projects selection will be determined through appropriate analysis in Business Case development.

The costs proposed are preliminary cost estimates only and will be assessed and adjusted as required in the Business Case.

### **4.1 PUTRESCIBLE CELL**

The compliance review of the Environmental Protection Notice (EPN 7191/2) undertaken by the EPA in 2013 highlighted a number of concerns which are being addressed by Flinders Council through the Furneaux Group Waste Management Strategy 2014-2019.



To ensure compliance a particular item of importance is the rehabilitation and operation of the insitu putrescible cell. A preliminary scope of works has identified that batter remediation and leachate management are the key items to address at a cost estimate of circa \$60k.

#### **4.2 BBQ AND PUBLIC TOILETS AT THE NORTH EAST RIVER**

An existing toilet block at the North East River entrance is provided and managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). Flinders Council propose, working in collaboration with PWS, to significantly improve this amenity with the provision of a new toilet block, barbeque, seating and landscaping.

The cost estimate for this project is \$50k.

#### **4.3 BBQ AND PUBLIC TOILETS AT THE CAMERON INLET**

To enhance visitor experience it is proposed that a toilet block, barbeque, seating and landscaping be provided at Cameron Inlet on the East Coast of Flinders Island. This project will build on the success of similar improvements at Yellow Beach, Allports Beach and Killiecrankie.

The cost estimate for this project is \$50k.

#### **4.4 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAGOON ROAD BLOCK (ACCESS AND AMENITIES).**

The main road entrance to Whitemark is deemed to be dour and unwelcoming. Flinders Council has proposed that significant improvements can be made by enhancing the blocks of land adjacent to the entrance and specifically the lagoon road block.

The lagoon(s) water is supplemented by captured storm water from the Whitemark Township and is frequented by a range of fauna including a number of wading bird species.

Flinders Council propose to develop a project to improve this amenity both visually and practically through the provision of:

- Enhanced water management,
- Landscaping, including the planting of native vegetation attractive to bird species, and
- Walkways, signage and viewing platform.

The cost estimate for this project is \$75k.

#### **4.5 THE 'STABILISATION' OF COUNCIL GRAVEL ROADS**

On Flinders Island areas identified as having tremendous tourism potential including but not limited to Palana, Killiecrankie and Lillies beach/Port Davy are accessible only by gravel roads. To significantly improve safety and enhance visitor access Flinders Council propose to stabilise sections of these roads.

Road stabilisation involves the mechanical addition of a binder (either lime or cement) and provides the following benefits:



- Significant dust reduction.
- Reduction in slipping and skidding especially in wet conditions.
- Production of a high strength pavement less prone to failure (eg potholes/rutting).
- Reduction in road maintenance costs allowing better utilisation of Council funds.

A preliminary investigation has been completed and the following objectives identified and costed (estimate). Where practicable a bitumous seal has also been proposed as detailed in the table below

Location	Works Planned (Lineal metres)	Cost Estimate
Coast Road	Stabilise 2200m and seal 1000 m	\$146,254.00
Palana Road	Stabilise 1000m and seal 700m	\$103,824.00
Lackrana Road	Stabilise and seal 1400m	\$120,897.00
Port Davies Road	Stabilise 3200m and seal 1500m	\$176,858.00
Lagoon Road	Stablise and seal 150m	\$17,096.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$564,929.00</b>

#### 4.6 BRIDGE RAILING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Flinders Council has developed a five year bridge railing replacement program. This is a safety improvement initiative.

Cost estimate is \$350,000.00

#### 4.7 TOWNSHIP FOOTPATH PROGRAM

To improve safety, access and visual amenity Flinders Council has developed a footpath construction program for Whitemark and Lady Barron.

Cost Estimate is \$125,000.00