

2025 Local Government Awards for Excellence

The Local Government Association of Tasmania congratulates the City of Launceston, Devonport City Council and Tasman Council as the winners of the 2025 Local Government Awards for Excellence.

Tasman Council won the Delivering Excellence – Smaller Council Award (population under 15,000)



Tasman Council's winning project was its *Think Tasman* campaign, which successfully repositioned the region as a premium destination.

Through creative marketing, films, and events, the campaign boosted the region's profile, attracted new business and investment, and strengthened ties with local stakeholders. Think Tasman stands out for its community-first approach, ensuring local voices and businesses led the way.

Devonport City Council won the Delivering Excellence – Larger Council Award (population over 15,000)



Devonport City Council's *Living City* project was the winning entry for the Larger Council Award.

Launched in 2014, this decade-long urban renewal project has transformed Devonport's identity, economy, and public spaces. Guided by a strategic Masterplan, the initiative reconnected the city with the Mersey River, revitalised the civic and commercial heart, and enhanced waterfront access. The council has delivered major infrastructure, vibrant new spaces, and attracted significant private investment, positioning Devonport as a dynamic regional centre with lasting community benefits.

City of Launceston won the Showcasing Innovation Award



City of Launceston took home the Showcasing Innovation Award for its *Community Engagement with Minecraft* initiative.

By building custom Minecraft worlds based on local landmarks, the council enabled over 800 students to share ideas and shape real-world park upgrades during National Science Week. This innovative approach boosted youth engagement by 90 times compared to traditional consultation methods while supporting education, digital literacy, and inclusion. The success of this project has inspired other councils to explore similar creative engagement strategies.

We also congratulate **Brighton Council** who were presented with a highly commended award for the Delivering Excellence – Larger Council category for its Community Creators program. It is a two-term, school-based program that aims to build leadership and communication skills, while boosting young people's sense of belonging and confidence. Groups of 10 to 20 students meet each week to explore their strengths, map community assets and design youth-led projects that address local issues. The program has been successful in improving attendance and enhancing school culture.

In addition, **Central Highlands Council** received a highly commended award for the Delivering Excellence – Smaller Council category for Highlands Bushfest. Now in its 11th year, the Highlands Bushfest celebrates Tasmania's rural lifestyle, outdoor pursuits and cultural heritage. It attracts over 6,000 visitors annually and generates an estimated \$500,000 in economic benefits per year. The Bushfest has become a cornerstone of regional identity in the Central Highlands.

Full details of the Awards for Excellence can be found in our [media release](#).

Each category winner received:

- An award certificate presented by the President of the LGAT.
- The opportunity to speak at the award ceremony.
- A commemorative trophy recognising their achievement in the relevant category.
- Promotion of the winning project via the LGAT's channels and platforms throughout the year.