

SMART LAUNCESTON

We're crafting a Smart City Strategy to guide the future of technology, data and innovation in the City of Launceston.

We're interested in your views on this topic and will be engaging through community workshops and surveys soon.

What is a smart city?

Smart cities employ technology, but they are designed with people front of mind. Smart cities are about providing practical solutions to tangible problems for real people. Through the development of our Smart City Strategy, we will identify the innovative ways in which technology can assist us in addressing our most important concerns as a community. Smart cities focus on improving decision making and deploying resources in the most effective way. Through increased access to up-to-date data and information, local governments can do more with less, and work to meet the expectations of our communities.

Why is it important?

As we continue to employ digital technology and data to enhance the places we live and work, it is important for us to take stock of our capabilities and progress to better understand what we're doing right and where we can improve.

This document highlights the progress that we've made on our journey to smart city maturity, demonstrates the benefits of a Smart City Strategy, showcases past project success, and outlines the steps we're taking to engage your views on the direction of our future Smart City Strategy.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The City of Launceston has a solid foundation of smart city success on which to build future projects. We've implemented a range of policies, strategies and reviews which have identified the need for a dedicated Smart City Strategy.



Greater Launceston Transformation project (GLTP)

The GLTP was a combined effort between local governments, private partners, and the State and Australian Governments to advance our region's smart city maturity. The Transformation Project was critical for developing collaborative partnerships between local councils. With Tasmanians now working together to achieve smart outcomes, the need for a dedicated strategy here in Launceston has become increasingly evident to direct and coordinate our action.

The GLTP has also been vitally important to secure funding and grant opportunities for future smart city projects. A Smart City Strategy will ensure ratepayers and taxpayers receive value for money.



Smart City Foundation Infrastructure and Networks – Assessment Report

As a product of the GLTP, the infrastructure and networks assessment report focused on reviewing Launceston's technological capabilities including internal systems, IoT networks, and the integration of new and existing solutions.

Crucially, this report also identified the need for the creation of an overarching strategy to guide the direction of future smart projects.

Formalisation of the City's strategic direction was recommended to remove the risk of smart projects working in inefficient silos as opposed to holistically with other Council initiatives.

A dedicated Smart City Strategy will interact with previous projects and frameworks, to help Council deliver our objectives to make Launceston more accessible, sustainable, and mobile. Our past work will inform the development of the strategy in tandem with the views of the community.




LAUNCESTON'S SMART CITY PROJECTS

The need for a dedicated Smart City Strategy arises from the need to guide and coordinate the delivery of smart city projects.

With smart city momentum accelerating in the City of Launceston, the opportunities derived from a formalised approach to innovation grow exponentially. Embarking on these projects without a consolidated Smart City Strategy also exposes Council to the risk of future projects focusing on new technologies instead of the needs of the community.

A Smart City Strategy will be informed by the needs of the community. These case studies highlight the ongoing success of smart city initiatives here in Launceston.



2022 SMART CITY PROJECTS	SCALE	PROGRESS
Public WIFI in Northern Suburbs – My Place My Future	High	Ongoing (2020-22)
Paths and Trails Sensors	Low	Currently in progress
EV Charger Network Expansion	Medium	Currently in progress
Computer Vision Analytics – Proof of Concept	Low	Ongoing
Micro-Climate Weather Station Sensors	High	Scheduled (2022)
Public Device Charging Network	Medium	Scheduled (2022)
Facilities Usage Sensors	Medium	Scheduled (2022)

Public WIFI Expansion to Northern Suburbs (My Place My Future)

The City of Launceston first started deploying public WIFI in areas of the CBD in 2014. Subsequent upgrades have improved the quality, speed and reach of this service, now covering most of the CBD as well as many parks and other public spaces. Current smart projects targeting Launceston's northern suburbs have helped to improve internet access in a number of key areas.

The provision of public WIFI acts as a springboard for future smart projects including CCTV and IoT sensors which relay critical data to help manage and maintain key community assets.

Launceston 3D Digital Twin

A key output of the GLTP was the creation of a 3D Digital twin, which has since been improved and iterated on by City of Launceston. These 3D models have various useful applications, helping city planners, designers, and local governments assess the impact of significant developments, policy decisions and projects before attempting them in the real world.

Launceston's 3D reality mesh is a great success both in terms of the quality of the model and providing a solid foundation for developing and extending the functionality of a digital twin for Launceston and the region.

City of Launceston Fibre Optic Network

The City of Launceston first began deploying fibre optic cable in 2000 with the initial goal to link council buildings and facilities, providing high speed reliable connectivity. The network has since grown substantially as opportunities and partnerships have presented.

The network now supports council facilities, CCTV, free public Wi-Fi, sensors and more, with capacity to support future innovation.

SMART CITY MATURITY

Smart City Maturity refers to our capacity to design and deliver smart city projects.

To continue on our smart city journey, we're developing a Smart City Strategy to guide and coordinate future initiatives.

To develop our strategy, we're hosting a combination of digital and In-person workshops, and an online survey, to gather insights from the community.

With a clear strategy we can then begin to embed smart city approaches across our organisation, promoting and supporting our future digital strategy and associated smart projects.

Based on our advanced project work, and our upcoming Smart City Strategy, Launceston Council is well on its way to becoming a leading Australian smart city. In order to mature further, Council must engage the community to determine the direction, objectives and projects most important to our community.



NEXT STEPS

Developing a Smart City Strategy is important to ensure we prioritise the champion and develop the right technology to better meet community needs.

In order to progress the creation of our strategy we have identified the next steps necessary to build momentum and create long-term citizen-centric success in the smart city space.

These actions include:

- > Designing and delivering a smart city survey to gauge community interest and insights.
- > Hosting a range of digital and In-person workshops and roundtable discussions to enable the community to have their say.
- > Defining and describing tangible use cases that a Smart City Strategy will help to coordinate for the benefit of the community.
- > Engaging with Councillors, Council executives, and community leaders to further shed light on the current state of smart city activities in Launceston.

