

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON TUESDAY, 2 JUNE 2015 COMMENCING AT 1.00PM

1 PRESENT

Mr Keith Draper (Chair), Mr Allan Cameron, Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Mr Terence Jacobson, Mr Herbert Johnson, Mrs Christine Robinson, Mrs Fiona Doe

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Leisa Gordon, Miss Amanda Mason

3 APOLOGIES

Mrs Jill Bennett, Mr Arthur Thorpe, Cr Andrew Calvert, Mr Des Jennings

4 DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST BY A MEMBER OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Part 5, S48A – S56, a member of a Special Committee must not participate in any discussion or vote on any matter in respect to which the member:

- a) has an interest; or
- b) is aware or ought to be aware that a close associate has an interest.

A member has an interest in a matter if the matter was decided in a particular manner, receive or have an expectation of receiving or likely to receive a pecuniary benefit or pecuniary detriment.

**It should be noted that any person declaring an interest is required to notify the General Manager, in writing, of the details of any interest declared within 7 days of the declaration.*

Nil received.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr Allan Cameron/Mrs Christine Robinson

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on Tuesday, 5 May 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Legislative Council Inquiry into Built Heritage Tourism Tasmania

Committee to note that Council endeavours to bring items such as the above to the attention of the Committee when possible. In some instances Council is not able to notify the Committee if time frames do not permit.

Action

Miss Mason to request information from Ms Green in respect to outcome of hearing.

7 MATTERS IN PROGRESS

7.1 Ross Strategic Plan

Committee to note the items which have been listed in the Strategic Plan and referred to Council for 2015/16 budget consideration.

Action:

No further action until outcome of budget deliberations announced.

7.2 Motions to Council

Motion (17/03/2015): *that Council request DPIPW to release the calicivirus in Ross, was noted for investigation by Council at its meeting of 20 April 2015.*

Update:

Report to be submitted to Council at the June meeting.

The Committee noted that Roberts sell poison effective on rabbits.

Motion (17/02/2015): *The Ross Local District Committee request the Northern Midlands Council to have all cats registered is being investigated by Council officers.*

Update:

The Committee to note the announcement of the Hon. Jeremy Rockliff, Minister for Primary Industries and Water, that:

The Hodgman Liberal Government is taking decisive action on feral cat concerns and will deliver Tasmania's first Cat Management Plan by the year's end.

Managing feral and stray cats is a community-wide problem and a complex issue that requires a range of approaches to manage the impacts on native wildlife, livestock and human health.

To date, legislation has been the focus but it is clear that this ignores the complexity of the issue.

The management of cats requires fostering responsible ownership, building awareness of the impacts cats can have and importantly tackling the problem of feral cats.

The Committee to further note the State has undertaken to establish a reference group, involving key organisations with a direct interest in cat management and ownership, to drive the development and implementation of the plan. The reference group is to provide a draft Cat Management Plan for consideration by the end of 2015.

Northern Midlands Council is awaiting the outcome of this Cat Management Plan.

Motion (05/05/2015): *That the Ross Canon be included on the heritage listing in the Northern Midlands Council Planning Scheme was noted by Council at its meeting of 18 May 2015 for investigation by Council and has been referred to the Planning Department to be included in next amendment to the Northern Midlands Planning Scheme.*

Motion (05/05/2015): That Council investigate the possibility of offering a subsidy for returning bottles/can/drink bottles was noted by Council at its meeting of 18 May 2015 and has been referred to Council officers for investigation.

7.3 Old Ross Bridge

Works to be completed by State Growth by June 2015. Works are in progress.

Action:

No action required.

7.4 Canon

Update to be provided on progress of maintenance of the canon. Enquiries have been made with Deniliquin RSL and research on Red Arrow. Next stage is to arrange meeting with the RSL.

Action:

Miss Mason to arrange meeting with RSL and General Manager/Council officers.

7.5 Signage review

Committee to note if the Council are advised of, or identify an illegal sign, they investigate (site visit, photograph) and determine whether the sign is compliant. If not, notice is issued to the property owner advising the sign is not compliant. The property owner is then given the opportunity to make an application for the sign, or remove the sign. In the event an application is not made, or the sign is not removed, infringement notices can be issued and the sign may be removed by Council.

8 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Memorandum of Understanding

The Committee to discuss the revised Memorandum of Understanding for the Ross Local District Committee that was endorsed by Council at its meeting of 18 May 2015. It is noted that in order to bring all Local District Committees into line in respect to terms, new agreements will run until 30 June 2016 at which time the new two year term will be implemented.

The Committee discussed the MOU and raised the following queries:

- Membership should include Ross and its surrounds – it was explained that the intention is that people from Ross and the surrounding district sit on the committee;
- Time limit of 1.5 hours – discussion was had in respect to the time limit when there are speakers. It was agreed that on occasions where there are visitors or speakers, then the time frame can be extended to permit for that.
- Council resources – are to be provided at a minimum of 6 meetings.
- Meeting time – the Committee discussed the new meeting time of 1pm not suiting the committee. It was proposed the meeting time be changed back to 3pm. Miss Mason to discuss with Campbell Town and report back.
- Clause 5 – enquiry was made as to whether committee are now precluded from making customer requests. It was explained that the Council has mechanisms in place to make those requests (website, phoning up). The purpose of the committee is to act in an advisory role. They are not precluded from making customer requests but encouraged to use the existing mechanisms in place.

8.2 Attendance of Works & Infrastructure Manager and Works Supervisor at RLDC meetings

Discussion was had in respect to the attendance of the Works & Infrastructure Manager and the Works Supervisor at meetings. It was explained that the workload of both the Manager and Supervisor do not permit them to be able to attend each meeting. It was suggested by the Committee they attend for 15 minutes once every two months. The concern is the lack of feedback being received on matters.

Action

[Miss Mason to provide feedback to Works & Infrastructure Manager.](#)

8.3 Bus stop in Ross

The Committee noted there are presently three bus stops in Ross. A suggestion was made that the toilet block development include an awning to double up as a bus shelter. Concern was raised regarding having a school bus stop at a public toilet site. An alternative suggestion was a bus shelter on Bridge Street, outside the Old School Ground. It was agreed this would be a suitable site.

8.4 Ross School Ground

It was suggested the Old Ross School Ground be used as a free camping ground for self contained camping units. It was noted enquiries had previously been made about using land on the southern side of the bridge. Careful consideration needs to be given to creating a free camping site when there is a caravan park in the town.

Action

[Mrs Bennett to report back to Committee re camping on southern side of the bridge.](#)

8.5 Street lights

List provided to Miss Mason to contact TasNetworks for bulb changes.

8.6 Nature strips

It was noted by the Committee that it is the perfect time of year for Church Street and Bridge Street nature strips to have decompaction, top dressing, top seeding.

Action

[Request to be put through to Works department with Mrs Doe as contact.](#)

[Mrs Doe to look into how to deal with erosion around pilons.](#)

8.7 Reading room wall

It was noted there is a crack in the reading room wall. Building and Maintenance officer to inspect when appointed.

8.8 Heritage Officer

Enquiry was made as to whether or not Council would employ a Heritage Officer. Question to be referred to Mr Payton and Mr Godier when they attend Ross on 9 June 2015 at 11am at the Reading Room to discuss planning matters with the Committee.

9 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday, **7 July 2015** commencing at 1.00pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 2:08pm.