

MINUTES ROSS DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

At the Ross Reading Rooms, 46 Church Street, Ross, on 5 August 2025,
Commencing at 11.15 AM.

1 PRESENT, Helen Elizabeth Davies, Marcus Rodrigues, Michael David Smith, Nigel Davies, and Sally Langridge

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Alison Andrews and Vivien Tan - NMC Executive and Communications Officer

2 GUESTS: Cr Paul Terrett, Tim Johnson, Fiona Doe, Marty Cullity, Emily Howard, Lily Taylor and Susie Duncan

3 APOLOGIES: Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Marcus Rodrigues, Cr Richard Archer and Mayor Mary Knowles OAM

4 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders – past, present and emerging.

5 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*

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: M Smith Seconded: N Davies Carried

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **3 June 2025** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings subject to the amendment 9.2 Greening Australia should read that there were over 5,000 trees planted at the Midlands Arboretum and area of the Species Hotel.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

	Description		Action
7.1	Wi-Fi Access	Installation of wifi at the Ross Town Hall and Ross Reading Rooms	Contractor scheduling – weather permitting
7.2	Information Board – Ross Directional signage	Capital Works allocation of \$5,000 set aside for this project <ul style="list-style-type: none">Determine Location - flush to the fence of Village GreenMark in the EV outletQR code for link to Ross Township webpage (Home - Visit Ross, Tasmania hosted by Heritage Highway)	H Davies Printing company is working on design and printing & quotation.
7.3	Ross Community Library Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Upgrade \$5000 budget allocated 2024-25New books are on order.Opening event projected to be SeptemberWill be promoted in the Wool centre and newsletter	MSmith Ongoing

7.4	EV Charging Station in Ross	<p>Motion to Council 20/01/25 Council Meeting 7.3.1 EV Charging Station Design MINUTE NO. 25/0010 DECISION That Council note the recommendation and liaise further with the Committee as the matter progresses. Committee Recommendation: Skins of the EV terminals That the Council offer the Ross District Committee to input into the designs of the Skins of the NRMA EV charging stations before the final design is made.</p> <p>Elise Faulds NRMA -Attended 1 April 2025 Committee Meeting Committee to submitted photos for mock up Elise Faulds <Elise.Faulds@mynrma.com.au></p> <p>Motion to Council June 3 2025 Moved N Davies Seconded M Smith Carried The District Committee is seeking an update from the council as to the finalising of the EV charging station in Ross</p>	<p>May 22 2025 Officer Emailed NRMA for update on status</p> <p>June 3 2025 – Motion was considered an operational matter and not included in the Council’s Agenda. Officer update is that The matter has not yet progressed, and an update will provide to the committee if there are changes to this.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
7.5	Dark Sky Place International Certification	<p>Ross is applying for DS Community. (There are other applications for a DS Reserve and a DS Park. Tasmania may have potential to be a Dark Sky State.) Council Meeting 21 October 2024 MINUTE NO. 24/0346 DECISION That council supports Ross Township’s bid to be a Dark Sky Community. Ross District Committee Motion 6/10/2024. That council supports Ross Township’s application for Dark Sky Certification as the 5th location in Australia due of Ross’s unique position of a dark night sky and unrestricted horizons and request to formally ask TasNetworks to install a directional shade on the light pole of Church Street to block out light on the Southern and Western sides.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronwen Cuning – Facilitator Dark Sky Collaborative • Additional Dark Sky support – Destination Southern Tasmania DST, Alex Heroys Alex@southerntasmania.com.au <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Established relationship with Landon Bannister, President of Dark Sky Tasmania. Provided Letter of support for application. 2. Gained the unanimous support of Northern Midlands Council and letter of support from Mayor. 3. Taken several Sky Quality Meter readings at 54 Church Street to confirm the suitability of the location for night sky viewing – 21.06 mpsa is the best reading to date. The readings were recorded on the Globe at Night website. 4. Promoted the concept through an interview with the Launceston Examiner 5. Been awarded a Paddy Pallin Foundation ‘Dark Sky Place-Making Grant’ of \$600 and complimentary registration to attend the Valuing Darkness Symposium in Melbourne, March 2025 6. Promoted Scott Bennett’s 22-page, full-colour booklet that lists the five best night sky viewing locations in Ross and provides advice on night sky and aurora photography. 7. Preliminary Application approved and the \$407(\$250 USD) fee for the full application has been paid, thanks to a generous donation from the Ross Sports Club. 8. Report from Dark Sky Convention, Melb. March 2025 9. Council correspondence from TasNetworks – Light pole on Church Street will be capped to block out light on Southern and Western side. 10. Council correspondence to TasNetworks- approval for Chair to have streetlight information. 11. Ross bid for Dark Sky community in the Examiner (May) and in Tasmania Country. 12. Lighting Inventory for Ross 13. Create a draft Lighting Plan 	<p>21 /10/24</p> <p>18/10/24 Saturday Dec 21 2024 RELAX p57</p> <p>05/25 Council correspondence to TasNetworks for approval to release streetlight information.</p> <p>05/25 Council correspondence from TasNetworks for blocking light spill on the Church Street Pole.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

		<p>14. Create 2 night-time events per year.</p> <p>15. Call for more members to join the newly established Ross Astronomical Association.</p> <p>16. Many business and community letters of support including the Ross Hotel are being mindful of Dark Sky accreditation in their renovations.</p>	
7.6	Significant Trees	Significant Trees Project. Submission from H Davies tabled.	Ongoing

8. Budget Items/Requests Table

Budget Items/ Request List 2026/2027			
8.1	Footpaths	The committee proposed the extension of the Heritage Walk on the footpath from Bond Street to Waterloo Street along Badajos Street. (a popular route for residents accessing the Ross Community Sports Club and dog walkers.)	Carried over from budget request 2025-2026
8.2	Improving Street Signs in Ross Township	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Street signs with a unique motif for Ross Township in the budget. Improvements to the signs along the main street. 2. Plaques for the 4 corners of Ross information 	Carried over from budget request 2025-2026
8.3	Formalised parking - Hearth	<p>Motion June 3 2025 moved M Smith / D Cowper-Cadogan Carried</p> <p>The committee recommends that council put a 2-bay parking at pull over area for the Hearth.</p> <p>Background: There is an existing entrance and an information board at the location. This is for access for tourists including the dark sky watchers. A formalised car park/ pullover area will increase the safety of visitors that have pulled over as the road in is an 80km road off the main highway.</p>	<p>Works request submitted number 171509.</p> <p>Listed as budget item for 2026-2027</p>
8.4	Road signs - entry into Ross.	<p>At the June 23 Council meeting MINUTE NO. 25/178 DECISION That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) approve the Committee request to investigate the aboriginal name of Ross; and b) investigate updating the entry sign to Ross to include the aboriginal name. Carried Unanimously <p>MOTION -June 3 2025 Dual Naming for the stone sign. Moved D Cowper-Cadogan Seconded N Davies Carried To investigate the aboriginal name of Ross and include in the Ross entry signs below the Town name</p> <p>Background: To have the name of Ross in Aboriginal. Makala on the entry and exit sign and in rust-proof treated steel. Makala. The only word recorded for the country at Ross, including Ross Bridge. Recorded by Robinson who passed back and forth through Ross and past the bridge several times in December 1833 and January 1834; accompanied by Karnebutcher/Karnebunger from the tribe of this area among his guides. (From Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre website)</p>	<p>Correspondence from Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre 12 June 2025</p> <p>Committee requests this to be put on the stone signage as per Campbell Town's entrance signs.</p> <p>Request will be included in the budget for 2026-2027</p>

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1	<p>Flood Mapping for Ross</p> <p>Motion: Ross Flood Mapping</p> <p>Moved N Davies Seconded H Davies Carried</p> <p>That Council suspends adoption of any new flood map until the community is consulted and has an opportunity to provide input.</p> <p>Background: Two meetings were held in Ross regarding the new flood maps and effects on properties. These were well attended by 20 residents.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed over:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People affected were not informed - the District Committee was not informed (8 April 2024) - Only one week given for public comment 	<p>Motion in Council agenda for 18 August 2025</p>
-----	---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No feedback to the public comments (10 submitted) - The governance issues listed and practical issues regarding flooding were of concern - Concerns as to how businesses will be affected and insurance issues - What will the next steps be to and what can the community do <p>Questions were also raised as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is this modelling data correct – does it take into account the bridge relief and culverts? - Is there better data available? - What can be done to mitigate flooding: make sure the river is well managed, planting to be done appropriately, make larger culverts, clear gorse and vegetation adjacent to the Midlands Highway Bridge that impedes peak flows, investigate drainage from the impoundment created by the Midlands Highway Bypass embankment, to ensure it is still suitable for peak flows forecast by climate change and more - . - Participation by community representatives at a meeting between SES and NMC to discuss the issue 	
9.2	<p>Excessive Street Signs on a Heritage precinct.</p> <p>There are many signs in the main street leading to visual pollution, especially in a historic area. Concerns this may not be compliant with Council policy or Heritage regulations</p>	Works Request to investigate ID-1442684
9.3	<p>Drill Hall</p> <p>Thank you to council for the budget earmarked for the Drill Hall.</p> <p>Motion: moved M Smith Seconded H Davies</p> <p>That there be additional discussion for possible further reallocation and reprioritization of these funds.</p>	

NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:35pm.

Next meeting on 7 October 2025, commences at 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room

ROSS VILLAGE
SIGNIFICANT TREES



ROSS VILLAGE SIGNIFICANT TREES

- (A.) Avenue of 110 ULMUS species 'Golden Elm' along Chiswick Road, from the Midlands Highway to The Boulevards.
- (B.) Avenue of 51 ULMUS species 'Elm' along Church Street, between The Boulevards and Bridge Street.
- (C.) Avenue of ULMUS species 'Elm' and QUERCUS 'Oak' along Badajos Street, between The Esplanade and Waterloo Street.
- (D.) Avenue of ULMUS species 'Elm' and QUERCUS 'Oak' along High Street, between The Esplanade and Bond Street.
- (E.) Short avenue of ULMUS species 'Elm' in Bridge Street, between Church Street and the Ross Bridge.
- (F.) Eight trees including FRAXINUS 'Ash', QUERCUS 'Oak' and ULMUS 'Elm' in Church Street between the Ross Cenotaph on Bridge Street and the Ross Uniting Church.
- (G.) Line of 8 FRAXINUS 'Ash' leading to the old Ross School, beside the old oval in Bridge Street. Also a single CHINESE ELM outside the oval on Bridge Street.

Significant Tree Nomination Form (cont.)

Significant Tree Assessment Categories

tick all categories that apply

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>1. Trees of outstanding aesthetic significance.</p> | <p>Trees whose form, seasonal beauty and/or placement is such that are magnificent examples of their species and/or a significant aesthetic component of the streetscape, park, garden or natural landscape in which they grow.</p> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>2. Trees of outstanding dimensions.</p> | <p>Trees with outstanding height, width or canopy spread.</p> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>3. Trees that are very old or venerable.</p> | <p>The age of these trees and associated links to the past makes them significant to the community. For example trees which reveal previous landscapes or land use such as estate boundaries or orchards.</p> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>4. Trees that commemorate, or are reminders of, cultural practices, historic events or famous people.</p> | <p>These trees have cultural significance through association with a significant person or event. This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees that have strong associations with specific community or cultural groups for spiritual, cultural, religious or other associated reasons. • Trees planted by royalty, political figures or community leaders or groups or to commemorate significant local or wider events. • Trees that have a recognised association with aboriginal culture or heritage or are valued for continuing and developing cultural traditions. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>5. Trees that are a significant part of a natural landscape, historic site, town, park or garden.</p> | <p>These are trees enhance the character of a natural landscape, streetscape, park or town and whose loss would fundamentally alter that character. These trees also contribute to the local or state significance of a historic site, private garden or estate.</p> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>6. Trees that have local significance.</p> | <p>These trees, as a component of a streetscape, park or garden, are important to the local community and are recognised as features of the immediate landscape or provide a sense of place.</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>7. Trees of a species or variety that is rare or very localized distribution</p> | <p>These trees have important scientific, ecological or horticultural significance. For example, trees that are endangered as a species or unique in distribution or position in the natural landscape. This can include remnant native vegetation that indicates the former extent of the species, rare/threatened species or those at the edge of their natural range, or locally uncommon species</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>8. Trees that are of horticultural or genetic value.</p> | <p>These trees could provide important and valuable propagating stock for scientific research, forestry or horticulture industries because their genetic characteristics differ from the type. For example, trees that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are a source of seed from a local gene pool • Are particularly resistant to disease or climate extremes • Have a particular growth form • Have tolerance to pests or disease |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>9. Trees that have a significant contribution to the integrity of an ecological community.</p> | <p>These trees are remnant native species which provide significant habitat for rare, threatened or locally uncommon or common native species. For example, trees that provide breeding and foraging habitat, roosting sites and refuge.</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>10. Trees that are significant for reasons that are difficult to categorise.</p> | <p>Very simply, these trees are significant because they are interesting! Whether they are examples of the art of topiary or simply growing in extraordinary circumstances, they immediately catch the attention of the passer by. For example, interesting growth forms, outgrowths, branch fusion or pruning.</p> |