

MINUTES ROSS DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

At the Ross Reading Rooms, 46 Church Street, Ross, on 2 December 2025,

Commencing at 11.15 AM.

- 1 PRESENT:** Chairman Nigel Davies, Helen Davies, Michael Smith, Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Sally Langridge and Rodney Haigh
- 2 IN ATTENDANCE:** Cr Alison Andrews and NMC Secretary Vivien Tan
- 3 GUESTS:** Cr Paul Terret and Libby McGrath NMC Youth Officer
- 4 APOLOGIES:** Marcus Rodrigues and Cr Richard Archer
- 5 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.

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

- 7** 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*

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: M Smith

Seconded: N Davies

Carried

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **7 October 2025** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings subject to the document be noted as minutes and not agenda.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

	Description		Action
9.1	Information Board – Ross Directional signage	Capital Works allocation of \$5,000 set aside for this project <ul style="list-style-type: none">Location determined- flush to the fence of Village Green- hotel side between the trees.QR code for link to Ross Township webpage (Home - Visit Ross, Tasmania) (H Davies leading the project)	Printing company is working on design and printing & quotation. Meeting with H Davies, F Dewar-

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design to consider an insert for the area of the main intersection to include the information. 4 corners of Ross plaques to be designed and quotations obtained. Proposed to budgeted for the 2025-2026 requests. Once completed the Ross Walking maps can be updated 	NMC Events and Tourism Officer and V Tan to discuss changes. Quote for the 4 corners plaques
9.2	Community Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional power point or conduit for cables - safety. Photos were taken and work department will schedule. 	<i>Works request ID 1452822</i>
9.3	EV Charging Station in Ross	<p>Motion to Council 20/01/25 Council Meeting</p> <p>7.3.1 EV Charging Station Design</p> <p>MINUTE NO. 25/0010 DECISION</p> <p>That Council note the recommendation and liaise further with the Committee as the matter progresses.</p> <p>Committee Recommendation: Skins of the EV terminals</p> <p>That the Council offer the Ross District Committee 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</p> <p>Committee submitted photos for mock up</p> <p>Elise Faulds <Elise.Faulds@mynrma.com.au></p> <p>Motion to Council June 3 2025</p> <p>Moved N Davies Seconded M Smith Carried</p> <p>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</p> <p>Officer Emailed NRMA for update on status</p> <p>June 3 2025 –</p> <p>Officer update is that</p> <p>The matter has not yet progressed, and an update will provide to the committee if there are changes to this.</p> <p>NO Change Ongoing</p>
9.4	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.)</p> <p>Council Meeting 21 October 2024 MINUTE NO. 24/0346</p> <p>DECISION That council supports Ross Township's bid to be a Dark Sky Community.</p> <p>Ross District Committee Motion 6/10/2024.</p> <p>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 Couning – Facilitator Dark Sky Collaborative Additional Dark Sky support – Destination Southern Tasmania DST, Alex Heroys <p>Alex@southerntasmania.com.au</p> <p>1. Established relationship with Landon Bannister, President of Dark Sky Tasmania. Provided Letter of support for application.</p>	21 /10/24

	<p>. Gained the unanimous support of Northern Midlands Council and letter of support from Mayor.</p> <p>. 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.</p> <p>. Promoted the concept through an interview with the Launceston Examiner</p> <p>. 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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>8. Report from Dark Sky Convention, Melb. March 2025</p> <p>9. Council correspondence from TasNetworks – Light pole on Church Street will be capped to block out light on Southern and Western side.</p> <p>10. Council correspondence to TasNetworks- approval for Chair to have streetlight information.</p> <p>11. Ross bid for Dark Sky community in the Examiner (May) and in Tasmania Country.</p> <p>12. Lighting Inventory for Ross</p> <p>13. Create a draft Lighting Plan</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> <p>17. Investigation needed to see if Heritage Council of Tasmania has information regarding Lighting Design for Heritage precincts and may endorse a Lighting guide for heritage precincts, heritage overlays and buffer zones.</p> <p>All 51 Street Lights will need to be compliant – meeting with Tas Networks and Tasmanian Heritage Council to see if the lights on the heritage precinct can be registered and if there can be a local provisions schedule for lighting within a heritage precinct.</p>	<p>18/10/24</p> <p>Saturday Dec 21 2024</p> <p>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>Awaiting minutes of LGAT motion November 20 2025</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
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		<p>2.10. Dark Sky Planning Guidelines for Tasmania Council – Central Highlands Council LGAT GENERAL MEETING AGENDA THURS 20 2025</p> <p>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby State government on behalf of all 29 Councils, to create Dark Sky Planning Guidelines, over the whole of Tasmania including the Islands. Background Comment The Policy will incorporate current best practices, including the integration of smart lighting technologies, shielding, strengthened environmental protections and requirements with an aim to reduce artificial light at night, support ecological sustainability, and enhance the Tasmania's appeal as a destination for dark sky and aurora australis tourism. The Policy would ensure Local Government continues to lead in responsible lighting management, community education, and long-term protection of Tasmania's natural night sky. There are very practical reasons for treasuring and being able to see the night sky, in Tasmania, and should not be taken for granted. (FOR FULL LGAT MOTION SEE ATTACHEMENT)</p>	
9.5	Significant Trees	<p>Significant Trees Project.</p> <p>Elm and Ash avenues have been submitted</p>	<p>Possible to be included on the map.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
9.6	Flood Mapping for Ross	<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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only one week given for public comment - 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>	<p>Motion in Council agenda for 18 August 2025</p> <p>That Council advise the committee that any adoption of flood mapping via amendment to the Planning Scheme maps (Flood Prone Areas Hazard Code Overlay) will follow the standard statutory process specified in the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>, which includes a 28-day period of public consultation.</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 <p>MINUTE NO. 25/282 from September 15, 2025, Council meeting</p> <p>DECISION</p> <p>That adoption of any new flood mapping includes community consultation where required by the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and that communities, including via Local District Committees, are made aware of the release of local flood studies.</p> <p>2.3. Enhancing flood risk management through policy alignment and local data recognition Council – Northern Midlands Council Decision Sought LGAT GENERAL MEETING AGENDA THURS 20 2025</p> <p>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) advocate to the Tasmanian Government for the following actions to strengthen flood risk management and planning integrity across the state: 1. The State Planning Office is resourced and directed to urgently coordinate a statewide LPS amendment process to update Flood-prone Areas Hazard Overlays with updated Tasmanian Strategic Flood Maps including any detailed studies where requested by a Council, and provide clear guidance on the role of the State Emergency Service (SES) and the information produced by the SES in the planning process. 2. The State Planning Office or Tasmanian Planning Commission be resourced and directed to undertake a review of Hookway v Northern Midlands Council [2025] TASCAT 106 and Au v Glenorchy City Council (No 2) [2024] TASCAT 50 to recommend urgent changes for high-risk flood zones with significant hazard levels that ensure long-term safety of people and property and maintain the autonomy of Councils as planning authorities. 3. The Tasmanian</p>	<p>4-12-25 - Officer has advised that SES would be happy to attend an information evening. Date to be determined.</p>
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		Government review the use of flood risk mapping by insurance companies and engage with insurers to ensure they actively participate in the Land Use Planning and Building Control Policy for Flood Risk Management Project, with the objective of developing policy solutions and recommendations that would address rising costs and declining availability of flood insurance. (FOR FULL LGAT MOTION SEE ATTACHEMENT)	
9.7	Excessive Street Signs - Heritage precinct.	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. Signage has been compliant. However, flags and other signs are now being put up with their own property. Works Request to investigate ID-1442684 – Footpath trading signs are limited to two. Chili Shop has large skull which is not sensitive to the historic landscape of Ross	This will need constant monitoring to ensure businesses are compliant
9.8	Bus Parking along Church Street outside the toilets	Due to the high pavement in the bus parking area, the bus doors are damaged and damage the pavement. By making the current area outside the toilets as loading and unloading area, the buses can then park further up the street. Works request to be sent in for the council staff to do an investigation.	Works request submitted - ID 1452899 Works will investigate options. Need to discuss with bus companies
9.9	Ross Village Green – amphitheatre	Committee would like to request that the currently underused outdoor amphitheatre have a painted labyrinth or some design that would allow people to enjoy the space when not in use for performances. Committee and council to investigate possible design options.	03-12-25 Design ideas have been sent to the Works Department to investigate.
9.10	Bus Shelter on High Street	Council to investigate the options of installing a shelter for the school children outside the old Sunday school on the corner of High Street or if any other additional area maybe possible. Works request submitted - ID 1452900	The initial location mentioned is private property. The community can make a request to the owners.
9.11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 3, 2026 March Budget meeting March 31, 2026 (instead of April 7) June 2, 2026 August 4, 2026 October 6, 2026 December 1, 2026 	Dates to be recorded on NMC website for 2026

10. Budget Items/Requests Table

Budget Items/ Request List 2026/2027

10.1	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
10.2	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
10.3	Formalised parking - Hearth	<p>Motion June 3, 2025, moved M Smith / D Cowper-Cadogan</p> <p>The committee recommends that council put a 2-bay parking at pull over area for the Hearth.</p> <p>Background: There are 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 is an 80km road off the main highway.</p> <p>The car pull-over area seems to have been graveled recently. This is an acceptable solution to the problem, which can now be dropped from the budget list.</p>	<p>Works request submitted number 171509.</p> <p>To be removed from list</p>
10.4	Road signs - entry into Ross.	<p>At the June 23 Council meeting MINUTE NO. 25/178</p> <p>DECISION: That Council</p> <p>a) approve the Committee request to investigate the aboriginal name of Ross; and</p> <p>b) investigate updating the entry sign to Ross to include the aboriginal name. Carried Unanimously</p> <p>MOTION -June 3, 2025, Dual Naming for the stone sign.</p> <p>Moved D Cowper-Cadogan Seconded N Davies Carried</p> <p>To investigate the aboriginal name of Ross and include in the Ross entry signs below the Town name</p> <p>Background:</p> <p>To have the name of Ross in Aboriginal. 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</p>	Request will be included in the budget for 2026-2027

		<p>December 1833 and January 1834; accompanied by Karnebutcher/Karnebunger from the tribe of this area among his guides. (From Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre website) 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>	
10.5	<p>Tourism sign into Ross</p>	<p>Installation of ROSS town signage similar to Oatland's.</p>  <p>Ross and Oatlands both have signs similar to the above at the northern and southern entrances.</p> <p>Oatlands also has the two promotional signs pictured below, and Ross has no equivalents:</p>	





11 NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Removal of the State Government Sign at Ross Village Green

This sign can be removed. Works request submitted.

11.2 Christmas Tree at Village Green

It was removed due to being we footed and returned to Allans nursery to see if they were able to save it, but they did not have any success.

[Staff hope to have a replacement in January and will need to raise the area for drainage.](#)

11.3 Ross Red Bridge

- 6-7' trees growing at the right-hand side of the bridge. (NE corner) and there are Weeds growing in the bridge support
- Request sent to Department of State Growth 8-12-25

Thank you for your email regarding vegetation maintenance at the Ross Bridge.

Your issue has been logged into our maintenance database and forwarded to the appropriate areas for response. Your reference number is RN30611.

- Transport now has an online form that you can use to report issues or lodge enquiries relating to the State road network. You can find this form and other information relating to contacting us at:
https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/contact_us/make-an-enquiry-about-a-state-road

11.4 Thank you for the bulk rubbish collection

11.5 Thank you to the Works Department for putting the bollards outside the end of 'Lovers Walk'

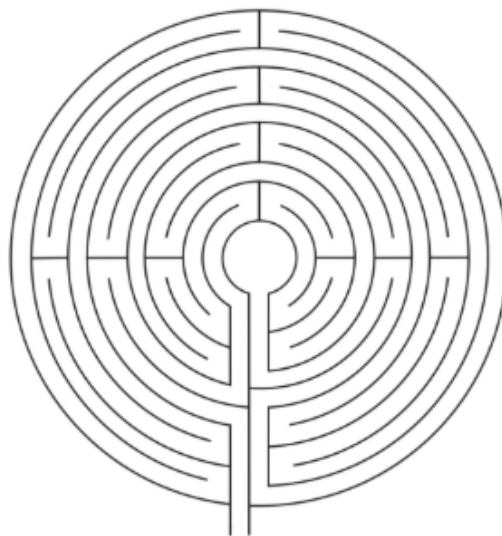
11.6 Request for application forms to the district committee.

NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:30pm. **Next meeting is on 3rd February 2025, commencing at 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room**



Eleven-Circuit Medieval Labyrinth -



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