

## MINUTES ROSS DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

At the Ross Reading Rooms, 46 Church Street, Ross, on 3 June 2025,  
Commencing at 11.20AM.

### 1 PRESENT

Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Helen Elizabeth Davies, Marcus Rodrigues, Michael David Smith, Nigel Davies, and Sally Langridge

### 2 IN ATTENDANCE:

Cr Alison Andrews, and Vivien Tan - NMC Executive and Communications Officer

### 3 GUESTS:

### 4 APOLOGIES:

Cr Richard Archer and Sally Langridge

### 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

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*

### 7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

*Moved: H Davies    Seconded: M Smith    Carried*

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **1 April 2025** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings subject to the amendment that item 7.14 Red boxes should read D Cowper-Cadogan instead of H Davies.

### 8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

|     | Description   |   | Action  |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 7.1 | <b>¼ court Basketball /Netball</b>                  | State Gov't Open Spaces Program Round One   | Meeting with RCSC 23/5/25 confirmed location.       |
| 7.2 | <b>Wi-Fi Access at Ross Reading Rooms</b>           | Installation in Ross Town Hall  | Submitted for works scheduling                      |
| 7.3 | <b>Disabled Parking</b>                             | <b>Committee unanimous decision to Layout 1</b><br>Layout 1 – one disabled parking space on left, three standard parking spaces, extra space is for access to the pool and for TasWater for maintenance of the pump station                               | Completed 28 May 2025                               |
| 7.4 | <b>Information Board – Ross Directional signage</b> | Capital Works allocation of \$5,000 set aside for this project <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Map design to be outsourced to Brett (map designer) for quotation</li><li>Location - flush to the fence of Village Green</li></ul>                   | D Cowper-Cadogan Officer to provide printer contact |
| 7.5 | <b>Ross Community Library Upgrade</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Upgrade of equipment and resources \$5000 budget to be allocated before June 2025</li><li>Computer/ software/ printer ready to set up</li><li>Waiting on book orders.</li><li>Opening event to be planned</li></ul> | MSmith Ongoing                                      |

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| 7.6 | <b>EV Charging Station in Ross</b>   | <p><b>Motion to Council 20/01/25 Council Meeting</b><br/> <b>7.3.1 EV Charging Station Design</b><br/> <b>MINUTE NO. 25/0010 DECISION</b></p> <p>That Council note the recommendation and liaise further with the Committee as the matter progresses.<br/> Committee Recommendation: Skins of the EV charging terminals<br/> 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><b>Elise Faulds NRMA -1 April 2025 Committee Meeting</b><br/> Committee to submit photos to use for mock up designs<br/> Elise Faulds &lt;<a href="mailto:Elise.Faulds@mynrma.com.au">Elise.Faulds@mynrma.com.au</a>&gt;</p> <p><b>Motion</b><br/> Moved N Davies Seconded M Smith Carried<br/> The District Committee is seeking an update form the council as to the finalising of the EV charging station in Ross</p>   | <p>May 22 2025<br/> Officer Emailed NRMA for update on status<br/> Awaiting response.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| 7.7 | <b>Bicycle parking location priorities</b><br>Near the playground – next to the trees and seats on Bridge Street (between 6 and 8 Bridge Street) | <p>Council meeting 21 October 2024 MINUTE NO. 24/0345<br/> That Council notes the committee’s recommendation and assesses the viability of the location.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> That Council install the bike rack at the Bridge Street Playground at the entrance area to the pool and use a finish to the concrete slab to help it blend more harmoniously with the surroundings and have a more visually appealing and subtle appearance.<br/> The committee supports the council’s use of a dark brown colour for concrete, in keeping with the ironstone paths of Ross.</p>  | <p>Second bike rack has been installed. Completed.<br/> remove from next agenda</p>                      |
| 7.8 | <b>Dark Sky Place International Certification</b>  | <p>Ross is applying for DS Community. (There are applications for a Reserve and a Park. Tasmania may have potential to be a Dark Skye State.)<br/> Council Meeting 21 October 2024 MINUTE NO. 24/0346<br/> DECISION That council supports Ross Township’s bid to be a Dark Sky Community.<br/> Ross District Committee Motion 6/10/2024.<br/> 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"> <li>• Bronwen COUNING – Facilitator Dark Sky Collaborative</li> <li>• Additional Dark Sky support – Destination Southern Tasmania DST, Alex Heroys<br/> <a href="mailto:Alex@southerntasmania.com.au">Alex@southerntasmania.com.au</a></li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Established relationship with Landon Bannister, President of Dark Sky Tasmania. Landon has provided a letter of support for our application.</li> <li>2. Gained the unanimous support of Northern Midlands Council and letter of support from Mayor.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol> | <p>21 /10/24</p> <p>18/10/24<br/> Saturday Dec 21 2024<br/> RELAX p57</p>                                |

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|------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
|      |                                      | <p>4. Promoted the concept through an interview with the Launceston Examiner</p> <p>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</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 has been 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 street light information.</p> <p>11. Ross bid for Dark Sky community in the Examiner (May) and in Tasmania Country.</p> <p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting Inventory for Ross</li> <li>• Prepare a Lighting Plan</li> <li>• Create 2 nighttime events per year.</li> </ul> <p>Call for more members to join the newly established Ross Astronomical Association.</p> <p>Call for Business and community letters of support</p> | <p>05/25 Council correspondence to TasNetworks for approval to release street light information.</p> <p>05/25 Council correspondence from TasNetworks for blocking light spill on the Church Street Pole. Work to be completed by June</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| 7.9  | <b>Significant Tree Register</b>     | <p>Significant Trees Project. – nominations extended to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2025</p> <p>Discussion to use Smart phone App to record location of trees and Avenues of Trees</p>   | Ongoing   |
| 7.10 | <b>Road signs - entry into Ross.</b> | <p>These have faded beyond recognition.</p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>Dual Naming for the stone sign.</b></p> <p>Moved D Cowper-Cadogan Seconded N Davies</p> <p>Abstension M Rodrigues Carried</p> <p><b>To investigate the aboriginal name of Ross and include in the Ross entry signs below the Town name</b></p> <p>Background:</p> <p>To have the name of Ross in Aboriginal. Makala on the entry and exit sign and in rust-proof treated steel.</p> <p>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 the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre website)</p>  | <p>Sign removed. Completed.</p> <p>Motion to June Council meeting</p>   |
| 7.11 | <b>The Red Phone Boxes</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical recordings at the Red Phone Box – not functioning. This needs connection to cellular network to work. Lease of Boxes and maintenance are with the Tasmanian Wool Centre</li> <li>• Possible support from Ross Mens Shed to fix the baseboards and install a new glass panel</li> </ul>  | <p>D Cadogan-Cowper</p> <p>ongoing</p>  |
| 7.14 | <b>Female Factory - seating</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee discussed additional seating to be installed in the vicinity of the Female Factory.</li> </ul>   | Installed. Completed  |

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|      |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benches along the bank</li> <li><a href="#">Committee thanks the council for the wonderful bench</a></li> </ul>  |   |
| 7.15 | <b>Excessive flags/banners on the street.</b> | The committee has seen a significant increase of promotional flags and banners outside the coffee shops. Concerns are that this is visual pollution of the heritage streetscape. Request for the legislation and provisions for banners and footpath advertising laws and policies. | <a href="#">Officer provided Footpath Trading By-Law. Completed</a> |
| 7.16 | <b>Dog exercise sign on the Village Green</b> | The community has found this sign to be misleading. The off-lead exercise area is ambiguous and does not serve as a good indication of where the off-lead dog park is located. The committee recommends a simple on-lead sign for the dog park sign at the Village Green.           | <a href="#">New sign has been installed Completed</a>               |

## 8. Budget Items/Requests Table

|     | <b>Budget Items/ Request List 2026/2027</b>    |   |   |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 8.1 | <b>Footpaths</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee proposed the extension of the footpath from Bond Street to Waterloo Street along Badajos Street.</li> <li>This is a popular route for residents accessing the Ross Community Sports Club.</li> <li>Many Dog walkers use this route.</li> </ul> | <a href="#">Submitted for Budget 25/26 consideration Awaiting outcome</a> |
| 8.2 | <b>Improving Street Signs in Ross Township</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee discussed including street signs with a unique motif for Ross Township in the budget.</li> <li>Improvements to the signs along the main street.</li> </ul>   | <a href="#">Submitted for Budget 25/26 Awaiting outcome</a>               |

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### 9.1 Formalised parking - Hearth

**Motion:**

**Moved M Smith                      Seconded D Cowper-Cadogan                      Carried**

**The committee recommends that council put a 2-bay parking at pull over area for the Hearth.**

Background: This is for access for tourists including the dark sky watchers. A formalised car park/ pull over area will increase the safety of visitors that have pulled over as the road in is an 80km road off the main highway.

### 9.2 Greening Australia / Landcare Information Session

After attending the May Landcare Information session, D Cowper Cadogan reported that there were over 100,000 trees planted at the Midlands Arboretum and area of the Species Hotel. Land Conservancy has upcoming talks. These will be included in the Neighbourhood News for those who may be interested.

### 9.3 Appreciation to Council

Thank you for the new seat at the Female Factory.

Thank you for the upgrading and painting of the Ross Town Hall. Lovely to see.

### 9.4 2<sup>nd</sup>/40<sup>th</sup> Plaque Sparrow Brigade - Doomed Battalion

Congratulations on the achievement of the installation of the plaque at the Ross Cenotaph to the 2<sup>nd</sup> /40<sup>th</sup> Sparrow brigade

### 9.5 Bus Zone Only Parking

Discussion that the designated bus zone area just up from the toilet access has such high footpaths that the buses are not able to open their doors properly as they hit the curbs. It is damaging to the buses.

### 9.6 Road Grates

An accident occurred when a bicycle wheel was caught in the grate and the rider flipped over the handlebars. The grate only has bars in one direction and no cross bars hence the wheel could get stuck. The autumn leaves covered the grate making this undetectable. Fortunately, the injuries were not severe.

[Works request sent to council.](#)

### **NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:38 am.

**Next meeting – 5 August 2025, commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room**