

MINUTES - ROSS DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

At the Ross Reading Rooms, 46 Church Street, Ross, on 31 March 2026,

Commencing at 11.13 AM.

- 1 **PRESENT:** Nigel Davies, Michael Smith, Helen Davies, Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Marcus Rodrigues and Rodney Haigh
- 2 **IN ATTENDANCE:** Cr Alison Andrews, Cr Richard Archer, Cr Paul Terrett, Acting General Manager Maree Bricknell, Works Manager Leigh McCulloch and NMC Executive and Communications Executive Vivien Tan
- 3 **GUESTS:** Karina West, Head of Foundation and Libby McKay, Community Engagement & Projects Coordinator Wedgetail VC
- 4 **APOLOGIES:** none
- 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: M Smith Seconded: M Rodrigues Carried

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **3 February 2026** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

11:15 – 11:38am Presentation by Wedgetail VC regarding The Quoin and future plans

- The Quoin is a living lab – 7000ha covered by 90% native vegetation. There are a variety of programs currently running include a Drone Surveying Program, Camera Trap Program, First Nations Junior Rangers, Eastern Quoll Translocation and breeding program and Acoustic Restoration (healthy sounds of forests to bring back bird life).

- Community engagement is limited to small groups as there is currently minimal infrastructure. There is a School Pilot for a 2-day experiential program, Beaker Street Festival.
- There are plans for repurposing a shearing shed for community gatherings and basic accommodation for small groups of researchers and students.
- Access needs to be organized. The Committee can request a visit by contacting Libby McKay libby@wedgetail.vc

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

	Description	Action	
8.1	<p>Information Board – Ross Directional signage</p>	<p>Capital Works allocation of \$5,000 set aside for this project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location determined- flush to the fence of Village Green- halfway between the entrance of the Village Green and the Hotel Fence line. • QR code for link to Ross Township webpage (Home - Visit Ross, Tasmania) (H Davies leading the project) • Meeting with H Davies, F Dewar- NMC Events • Design to consider an insert for the area of the main intersection to include the information. Design presented to committee. Committee endorsed the simpler design for final artwork <p>Four Corners of Ross plaques to be designed and quotations obtained. Proposal to be budgeted for the 2026-2027 requests. Once completed the Ross walking maps can be updated Quote for 4 corners plaques from Robert of Red Arrow (H Davies) and then quote from NMC works for installation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A3 size raised lettering. • Photos of location and rough sketches sent to Red Arrow 	<p>Fingerprint to work on final draft for the simple map version.</p> <p>Toilets to be included in the legend and made more visible</p> <p>Formal Quotation to follow.</p>
8.3	<p>Dark Sky Place Int. Certification</p>	<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 DECISION That council supports Ross Township’s bid to be a Dark Sky Community.</p> <p>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 COUNING – Facilitator Dark Sky Collaborative 	<p>21 /10/24</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. . Gained the unanimous support of Northern Midlands Council and letter of support from Mayor. . 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. . Promoted the concept through an interview with the Launceston Examiner . 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 14. Create 2 night-time events per year. 15. Call for more members to join the newly established Ross Astronomical Association. 16. Many business and community letters of support including the Ross Hotel are being mindful of Dark Sky accreditation in their renovations. 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>All 51 Street Lights will need to be compliant – meeting with Tas Networks and Tasmanian Heritage Council to see if the lights</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>
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on the heritage precinct can be registered and if there can be a local provisions schedule for lighting within a heritage precinct.

2.10. Dark Sky Planning Guidelines for Tasmania Council – Central Highlands Council LGAT GENERAL MEETING AGENDA THURS 20 2025

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 this should not be taken for granted.

Workshop to Council – 2 March 2026 – Nigel Davies

- Jake Winzenberg, Contracts Manager, TasNetworks
- Belinda Lehner, Customer Account Manager, TasNetworks
- Scott Gracie, Shrader Australia
- Landon Bannister, President, Dark Sky Tasmania

16 March 2026 Council Ordinary meeting:

16.1 NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL DARK SKY POLICY AND SUPPORT OF ROSS AS A DARK SKY COMMUNITY

MINUTE NO. 26/088

DECISION Carried Unanimously

That Council

a) Support in-principle the Dark Sky Lighting Policy as presented and implementation of the program so long as it aligns with national regulatory standards.

and

b) Seek external funding for the implementation of the Dark Sky Program to support accreditation as a recognised Dark Sky Community.

Recent publicity:

1. Examiner Sunday March
2. Mercury Saturday March
3. ABC Northern Tasmania Breakfast with Kim Napier

16/3/26 Ross lighting Management Plan is passed

Ross Pilot Scheme is being look at Schreder

Workshop 2/3/2026
Council Chambers

Full Works Report
attached.

		4.Reach for the Stars Event – April 16, 2026 Ross Town Hall	
8.4	Significant Trees	Significant Trees Project. The Elm and Ash avenues have been submitted.	Awaiting council endorsement.
8.5	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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is this modelling data correct – does it consider 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</p>	<p>Motion in Council agenda for 18 August 2025</p> <p>That Council advises 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 Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, which includes a 28-day period of public consultation.</p> <p>100 year flood group for Ross is on Facebook.</p> <p>4-12-25 - Officer has advised that SES would be happy to attend an information evening. Date to be determined.</p> <p>Awaiting SES confirmation of dates</p>

		<p>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 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.</p> <p>Council offered the services of grant application writer Lorraine Green to the Ross Flood Group, to assist in applying for grants for vegetation removal and culvert enlargement. This offer was passed on to the Flood Group.</p>	<p>SES is awaiting a date from Ross community to meet with the Ross Flood Group.</p>
8.7	<p>Ross Village Green – amphitheatre</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>03-12-25 Design ideas have been sent to the Works Department to investigate.</p> <p>11 Circuit Medieval Labyrinth design endorsed</p>	<p>Looking at durability of painting over exposed aggregate and concrete seal and proposal as to who will maintain and touch up the labyrinth. Further</p>

		Youth Officer to look at running this project over school holidays with local students and youth in the area.	Investigation needed.,
8.8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 5, 2026 – M Davies • June 2, 2026 • July 7, 2026 – M Davies • August 4, 2026 • September 1, 2026 – M Davies • October 6, 2026 • November 3, 2026 – M Davies • Xmas Dinner (TBC) • December 1, 2026 	<p>Additional dates are incorporated for monthly meetings.</p> <p>Committee resolved to meet monthly.</p> <p>11:15AM</p> <p>Ross Reading Rooms</p>
8.9		<p>Christmas Tree at Village Green</p> <p>NMC Works hope to have a replacement and will need to raise the area for drainage. Suppliers are sourcing for tree.</p>	Monitor

9. 2026/2027 Capital Works Submission (25 April Bus Tour)

The following projects are presented in priority order, highest priority first.

Project 1	Description	Cost
Four Corners of Ross	Four metal plaques to be cast in steel, allowed to rust and be embedded in the roadway at each of the Four Corners of Ross. The plaques to be numbered 1 – 4 and inscribed with the description of the associated corner – Temptation (the Ross Hotel), Recreation (the Town Hall), Salvation (the Roman Catholic Church) and Damnation (the former gaol).	\$700 per plaque
Benefits:	Many visitors passing through Ross are unaware of this fascinating aspect of the town's history. The new street map currently being prepared by Council for installation at the Village Green will include the location of the Four Corners. The proposed project will build on the information provided by the new map by identifying and explaining each of the Four Corners in a format and material in keeping with their historic location.	
Feasibility:	There are no technical obstacles to the production of the plaques. Installation may be by the Council workforce in a similar style to the existing convict arrow plaque.	
Risk:	We envisage the plaques being installed as close as possible to the footpath / building at each corner, so visitors may inspect and photograph them without risk from traffic. The plaques will be installed flush with the surface so there is no trip hazard.	
Status:	The plaques have been designed and cost estimates obtained from the same Hobart company that cast and installed the convict arrow embedded in Church Street.	
Project 2	Description	Cost
Bus shelter for the school bus	Parents have requested the construction of a bus shelter for families waiting for the arrival of the school bus.	\$10,610 + GST, plus installation
Benefits:	Children and their parents waiting for the arrival of the school bus are currently exposed to the weather. The provision of a shelter in the style and location proposed will give them protection from the elements. The proposed location is on the west side of Church Street, behind the red phone boxes on vacant Council	

	land. The style of the shelter is in keeping with existing constructions on Church Street, such as the roofed map of Ross on the west side of the street.	
Feasibility:	It is proposed that the shelter be installed on vacant Council land that was previously proposed for the construction of an electric car charging station. The shelter may be purchased in kit form from Landmark Products ('Bathurst Timber Bus Shelter') and erected by the Council workforce – or be constructed from purchased materials to a similar design.	
Risk:	The project will increase comfort for children waiting for the bus and reduce the risk of them running into traffic by providing a clearly identified location set back from the roadway. The project will also increase safety for other road users as the bus will no longer have to turn across traffic from Church Street into High Street to collect children and then loop back onto Church Street from Badajos Street.	
Status:	A suitable shelter and manufacturer have been identified and the shelter costed. Needs further Community Consultation	
Project 3	Description	Cost
Footpath construction	Ross residents have requested the construction of a footpath on the south side of Badajos Street between Bond Street and Waterloo Street.	Unknown
Benefits:	The proposed footpath will link up with existing footpaths and provide residents from the eastern parts of Ross with improved access to the Sports Ground and the centre of Ross.	
Feasibility:	It is proposed that the footpath be constructed in the red gravel used for similar footpaths in Ross.	
Risk:	The project will reduce traffic risk to pedestrians by giving them an alternative to walking on the roadway and reduce trip hazard from walking on uneven grass verges.	
Status:	These projects were carried across from the previous year's budget submission.	
9.4	Improving Street Signs in Ross	<p>1. Street signs with a unique motif for Ross Township in the budget. Improvements to the signs along the main street.</p> <p>2. Plaques for the 4 corners of Ross information</p>
		Carried over from budget request 2025-2026
9.5	Road signs - entry into Ross.	<p>At the June 23 Council meeting MINUTE NO. 25/178 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 December 1833 and January 1834; accompanied by Karnebutcher/Karnebunger from the tribe of this area among his guides. (From Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre</p>
		Feb 2026. In an accident the original sign was destroyed. Awaiting insurance claims. Continue to monitor

		website) Correspondence from Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre 12 June 2025.	
9.6	Tourism sign into Ross	Installation of improved ROSS town signs on the highway to give Ross better visibility similar to Oatland's.	

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Thanks to the Ross Pool committee.

Thank you and gratitude to the Ross Swimming Pool Committee and volunteers for a good season.

10.2 Toilet Sign on Church Street

There were concerns that the toilet signage at Church Street is not obvious or visible. Works will look to investigate.

10.3 Seed pods at the Park on the bare earth are slippery and need to be made safe

Works request to be submitted.

10.4 Lovers Lane pathway

- Retain the screen of trees and bushes between the campground and the river
- Backyard of the neighboring property to the campground would like a screen
- Council is awaiting an arborist report.
- Boundary of the caravan park is most likely to the river – council will look at the lease and boundaries to confirm.

10.5 King Charles Portrait to be framed by H Davies

10.6 Thank you to Ross District Committee

Acting General Manager Maree Bricknell on behalf of the Council thanked the committee members for their work and for attending and presenting at the Councillors Bus Tour.

NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 12:20 pm. The next meeting of the Ross District Committee is scheduled for 5 May 2026, at 11:15 am at the Ross Reading Rooms.