

16 MARCH 2023



Message from the Mayor

Local District Committees & Forums

Council established seven (7) Local District Committees and Forums following the amalgamation of Evandale, Longford, Campbell Town, Ross, and part of Fingal municipalities in 1993.

The Committee's primary focus is to work with Council and liaise with the community and special interest groups, to ascertain their views/opinions on local issues, and projects that Council is directly responsible for. This is done through a formal meeting process.

Each Committee also has Councillor representation, strengthening the communications between Council and the community. Committees also provide feedback to Council in respect to matters that Council has referred to them.

Local District Committees and Forums do not deal with complaints. Complaints should be directed to Council.

Meetings are governed in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 which means:

- Agenda and minutes are created and maintained.
- Recommendations to Council can be made by way of a motion.
- Meetings are public so residents and community interest groups can attend.

Members are appointed for a term of two (2) years commencing in July and concluding in June and all positions will be declared vacant in June 2023 so Council will be calling for nominations for the next two years from the week commencing 8 May 2023.

Community Expectations Recognised in Northern Midlands Planning Scheme

The country look, and feel of our towns, with larger block sizes and better connectivity, were a key driver to the establishment of some of the requirements contained within the Northern Midlands Local Provisions Schedule – the Council drafted component of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

Minimum Sizes for Multiple Dwellings (Units)

The permitted pathway for multiple dwellings in the State Planning Provisions requires a minimum site area per dwelling of no less than 325m². Council has increased this requirement within all township specific area plans to no less than 400m².

Lot Density (Urban)

The permitted pathway for General Residential zoned lots in the State Planning Provisions requires a lot area of not less than 450m². Council has increased this requirement within the township specific area plans to an area of not less than 600m².

Lot Density (Fringe Development)

In the Low Density Residential zoned areas surrounding our towns, Council has strengthened the requirements of the previous Interim Planning Scheme and retained a 1ha minimum lot size and included an 8000m² absolute minimum under the Performance Criteria of the township specific area plans.

Requirements for Internal Lots

Additional regulations have been applied under the Local Provisions Schedule to subdivisions proposing internal lots.

Subdivisions (Connectivity and Street Trees)

For subdivisions that require a new road in township areas covered by a specific area plan, the Local Provisions Schedule includes additional requirements relating to providing connectivity and street trees.

Heritage

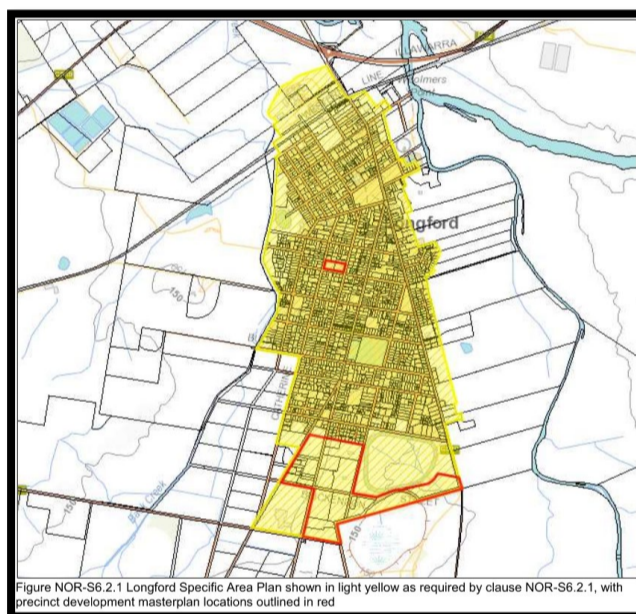
In our key heritage towns of Ross, Evandale and Longford, additional requirements now apply to the roof form, wall material and windows of new building work within an area covered by a specific area plan.

Precinct Masterplans

Precinct masterplans have been developed to guide the development of vacant land and ensure appropriate lot sizes and location/allocation of public open space.

What Else Sets Us Apart?

The Local Provision Schedule has also provided Council with the opportunity to develop lists relating to heritage significant places and precincts and a list of 110 significant trees. Council will look to further develop the list of significant trees and include them in the planning scheme for protection, with community input to assist in the identification process.



Above: An example of the spatial allocation of a Specific Area Plan and Precinct Masterplans (Longford)

Project Updates

Tooms Lake Camping Area Infrastructure Upgrades Completed

Tooms Lake lies approximately 42kms east of Ross at the head of the Macquarie River catchment and located within the Tooms Lake Conservation area.

With a reputation among anglers as an early season venue due to its low elevation, anglers are rewarded throughout the season and the shallow, sheltered waters are ideal for small boats.



Council manages the public camping ground on the shores of the lake but the camping and ablution facilities that existed previously, were impacted by water runoff and other environmental issues due to increased visitation, which can also affect the health of the lake.

With funding support from the State Government Recreational Fishing and Facilities Program (\$80,000), Inland Fisheries Service (\$20,000) and Councils contribution (\$20,000), infrastructure improvements have been completed including:

- A new pump out toilet facility.
- Removal of dead/dangerous limbs and trees.
- Removal and placement of large rocks.
- New compacted soil/gravel to create defined camp sites.
- Improved drainage and resurfacing of the parking area.
- Upgrades to the walking path from the camping area to the boat ramp.
- Upgraded camp site and parking public signage.



New pump out toilet facility.



New compacted soil/gravel and rock placement.



Improved campsite signage.

The quality of the camping area is now significantly improved, reducing the environmental impact of camping on the lake and the Macquarie River.

Mary Knowles OAM
Mayor