

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE ROSS COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB ROOMS, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2024, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Helen Davies, Christine Robinson, Jill Bennett, Julie Smith, Sally Langridge, Michael Smith, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Andrews, Councillor Terrett, Councillor Archer, Paul Eyre

3 APOLOGIES

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM

4 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 Declared

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on Tuesday 5th December, 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Helen Davies / Sally Langridge

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Closure Of High Street Pedestrian Rail Crossing

NMC has applied to TasRail for a license to build a new, legally compliant crossing. \$60,000 has been allocated in the 2023/2024 budget for the construction of this crossing.

Chair discussed with Council's Engineer, and he advised Council has given TasRail everything they require, and are now awaiting the technical specifications required for the job to proceed.

No further updates to report following on from meeting between Chairperson and NMC Works Manager.

Matter ongoing.

6.2 Review Of Local District Committee Structure

Council had agreed to extend the terms of appointments of all LDC's and Forums until June 2024, while the Local District Committee structure review is being undertaken. The review will examine the LDC's role and function, membership, meeting times, funding and communication with the local community. Council has subsequently advised that the current MOU is now also extended until 30 June 2024, or sooner, if the new MOU can be agreed and implemented.

Council will be in contact with all Local District Committees in due course with advice of a date and time for a workshop to be held at Council's offices in Longford, for all Local District Committee's Chairpersons to attend to discuss revision of the current MOU.

No further comments from committee.

Matter ongoing.

6.3 Basketball Hoop, Backboard and Post

Council has been notified that they have successfully received funding from a tranche of State Government community funds for a quarter court basketball facility. At this time, no date for receipt of monies has been advised.

Works Manager has advised the basketball hoop, backboard and post has been purchased by Council from the Secretarial Allowance funds, and is currently being held at Council's Depot.

Michael Smith raised the matter of refunding any monies already spent from the Secretarial Allowance on the purchase of the basketball equipment – Chair thought this would be highly unlikely, but would follow up. Michael also asked if the Ross Community Sports Club could please be involved in discussion on the placing of the court before Development Application applied for. Chair to relay this request to the NMC.

Matter ongoing.

6.4 Placing Of Mature Age Christmas Tree In The Ross Village Green

Council will support planting a Christmas tree in the Ross Village Green.

Following discussion and advice from Allan's Nursery, it was felt transplantation of trees was not the preferred option due to lengthy timeframe and associated risks. All felt purchasing

the 2 trees, one slow growing and one faster growing was a more attractive option and for the faster growing one to be placed in a suitable position for long term viability. Position would need to take into account, watering system, access to electricity and overshadowing of Man O Ross Hotel. Trees recommended by Allan's Nursery are: - slow growing Cedrus Deodara (Himalayan Cedar) and faster growing Picea Glauca (White Spruce).

Chair met with Council's Works Manager at the Ross Village Green, and two sites for the trees were identified and agreed. The trees will be planted either in Autumn or Spring.

No further action required – meeting agreed this item can now be removed from future Agendas.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Free Wi-Fi

Chair discussed with attendees the intention, as per the press release of the State Government, to extend free Wi-Fi to various institutions with the state. This may be relevant for the Ross Town Hall (Film Society) and the community library to access. Helen advised the Church group room has a phone connection. However a copper cable phone line is not suitable for connecting to Wi-Fi. Chair to discuss with NMC whether the Council will be involved in the State Governments roll-out.

Letter from Brian Mitchells office re improvement to Telstra connectivity has been received by some Ross residents. Michal Smith mentioned that further funding will be forthcoming.

Copies of communications from the State Government and Brian Mitchell regarding both the above matters, are appended to the foot of these minutes.

7.2 Round Table Discussion

A Thorpe – Unfortunately Council CCTV does not cover the Ross Village Green and so no record of the damage to the Remembrance Day wreath.

J Bennett - Trimming of garden in Church Street – asking for volunteers to assist with this project (AT/HD volunteered).

C Robinson - NMC advised that 2 new electric charging stations are being considered for installation in Ross. Any installation would be subject to a development application being advertised, with submissions being able to made by any member of the public.

H Davies - Works Manager advised the School Oval Spraying was conducted by a contractor. Contractor thought chemical would be safe to use (Chemical used was MCPA 500). There are 4 neighbours on the boundaries, if spray drifts, where does it end up in the environment? Councillor Archer offered to follow up with Works Manager, as he feels this is not the appropriate chemical to use. Councillor Archer also advised that has been appointed to be a member of the new NMC Weeds Committee.

Julie Smith – Signage needed at the toilet in the Village Green as there have been a large number of people queuing at the Village Green toilet. Is there a need for more signage? Discussion held that reiterated that the toilet there is for people using the Village Green, not a public toilet for buses and such – the toilets near the town hall are designated for buses. NMC has previously stated that it does not want to place any more signage on the Village Green.

Can the government sign on the Church Street boundary of the Village Green be removed and an up-to-date map of Ross be erected in its place? Apparently original sign was to be in place for a period of 12 months, which has now passed, Chair to follow up with NMC if mandatory display period for the sign has elapsed. Funds will need to be found to have the new sign produced. Perhaps request for a new sign could be included in the RLDC's Capital Budget Request List to be submitted to Council for consideration in March 2024 ???

Councillor Archer – asked if anyone had any further news about the sale for the church. No one appears to be able to find out anything at all about the sale, apart from the fact it has sold.

Councillor Terrett – 2024/2025 budget will be coming up in April. Now is the time to start thinking about projects that will benefit the Ross Village and surrounds.

Michael Smith – there are a number of weeds growing around the base of the Ross Bridge. Chair stated that this is the responsibility of State Growth, not NMC. Michael to forward photos to Chair who will then contact State Growth directly, requesting action.

8 **NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:47 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 5th March 2024 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.



Jeremy Rockliff
Premier of Tasmania

16 December 2023

Madeleine Ogilvie, Minister for Science and Technology

Statewide Wi-Fi Access Program (SWAP) enabling more Tasmanians to get connected on free public Wi-Fi

More Tasmanians will be able to access free public Wi-Fi with the Rockliff Liberal Government expanding its Statewide Wi-Fi Access Program (SWAP).

This increased service will grow the free public Wi-Fi network in Tasmania to include more public hospitals, community health centres, Service Tasmania shops, libraries, departmental and regional offices.

The first of the new sites will be rolled out across January and February 2024.

Minister for Science and Technology, Madeleine Ogilvie, said free Wi-Fi will give Tasmanians more opportunities to connect.

"Wi-Fi access is another way the Rockliff Liberal Government is connecting Tasmanians and improving digital inclusion," said Minister Ogilvie.

"We understand addressing the digital divide is essential and are actively looking for solutions to the connectivity challenges some Tasmanians face.

"This expansion is part of the Government's *Our Digital Future* strategy and outlines a vision for a prosperous and connected Tasmania, collaborating and thriving in a technology-enabled world."

The increased access to free public Wi-Fi builds on the Government's commitment to address digital inclusion in Tasmania with funding from the 2023-24 Budget.

The Department for Education, Children and Young People currently provide free Wi-Fi in schools for students, and in 76 libraries across the State, and the Department of Health is progressing Wi-Fi infrastructure improvements - including free public Wi-Fi - within the major hospitals.

The Department of State Growth established a public Wi-Fi network to support ports of entry and key tourism locations.

Minister Ogilvie said cost of living increases have challenged family budgets and access to available, affordable internet services have become harder for many families.

"Free public Wi-Fi is an important way of ensuring Tasmanians can connect to the local and global community, interact with one another, transact business and access information."

The first of the additional free Wi-Fi services will be available in early 2024.

Brian Mitchell MP

Federal Member for Lyons

Arthur and Ann Thorpe

Dear Mr and Mrs Thorpe

RE: DELIVERING BETTER CONNECTIVITY ALONG THE MIDLANDS HIGHWAY

Great news! The Midlands Highway will soon benefit from improved mobile connectivity thanks to the Albanese Labor Government.

A grant of **\$1,795,307.13** has been provided to Telstra to provide two new mobile sites at **Symmons Plains and St Peter's Pass**.

The Albanese Government is investing \$170.2 million to deliver 136 projects nationally across the Regional Connectivity Program (RCP) and Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP).

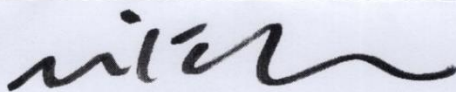
It's all part of our \$1.1 billion Better Connectivity Plan to narrow the digital divide for rural and regional communities.

The rollout schedule will be published on Telstra's website once contracts are executed.

As chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts I am working continuously to improve mobile connectivity in regional Tasmania.

I'm proud to be a part of a federal Labor Government that is improving mobile and broadband communications across Lyons.

With warm regards



Brian Mitchell MP

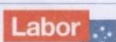
13 December 2023 | bd

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