

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2013 COMMENCING AT 6.05PM**

**1 IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs C Freeman, Mr A Gee, Mrs H Reynolds, Mr A Wilson – General Manager, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

**2 APOLOGIES**

Mrs M Dennis (resigned), Mrs S Squires, Mrs S Freeman, Cr M Knowles

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

***Mr A Gee/Mrs H Reynolds***

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 25 July 2013, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

*Carried*

**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*, 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.

*No interest was declared.*

**5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**i) Policing**

The meeting noted that a schedule of meetings had been provided to Constable Littlejohn.

***Action***

*No further action.*

**ii) Monitoring Water Quality / Water Consumption**

Noted that TasWater had sent an update to residents on 20 September 2013 advising that delays had been experienced due to bore drilling equipment failure, that alternative means of water supply were still being investigated and that a decision was expected to be made by early November 2013.

## **Action**

*The committee to be kept informed.*

### **iii) Fire Brigade**

At the 25 July meeting Mrs Dennis advised that the negotiations in relation to the provision by TFS of a trailer or tanker to the Rossarden Progress Association was progressing and it was hoped that the matter would be finalised by the end of July.

It was noted that the future of the service was uncertain due to the relocation of Mr and Mrs Dennis.

## **Action**

*The committee to be kept informed.*

### **iv) Esk Highway**

#### **a) Signage**

The matter of installing 'Slippery When Wet' signage on the Esk Highway, from the railway overpass for a distance of approx. 1.5km's toward the Midland Highway intersection, in the area known locally as Red Hill's Crossing, was considered at the December Traffic Committee meeting. In April DIER advised that arrangements were underway to have the signage installed on both approaches.

Noted that signage had been installed.

## **Action**

*Matter finalised.*

#### **b) Roadworks**

At the 31 January 2013 meeting it was noted that Council's Engineer had forwarded a letter to DIER in regard to concerns raised that the section of road (approx. 1km from town for 1km in the vicinity of the Benham property) believed to constitute a danger as the road was raised from the natural ground level to alleviate water damage to the road surface and the shoulders fell away sharply. Noted that no response had been received in regard to this enquiry; the meeting noted that a further enquiry had been emailed to DIER on 19 July; no response had been received.

The committee discussed the possible need for the upgrade of the Esk Highway at Milford which may be subject to flooding at the 25 July meeting.

It was noted that DIER submitted an application for a planning permit for minor vegetation removal and disturbance on land directly adjacent to Esk Main Road at Blanchards Creek Bridge and Styne's Creek Bridge to facilitate installation of temporary traffic diversions during construction to replace the bridges. The project is being undertaken as part of DIER's Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program: Bridge Replacement and Strengthening, and under the DIER Bridge Strengthening Strategy 2012. The Esk Main Road as a High Productivity Vehicle (HPV) route and the key corridor connecting the Midland Highway with the east

coast of Tasmania.

During September the General Manager wrote to DIER requesting information regarding planned roadworks for the Esk Highway.

**Action**

*The committee to be kept informed.*

**c) Issues relating to roadmarkings**

At the 25 July meeting the dangers for road users on the section of road at the intersection of the Esk and Midland Highway including to Conara were discussed; including the added risks due to increased traffic flows. The committee requested that a reduction in the speed limit to 80kmh be investigated and the possible reconfiguration of the intersection.

The meeting noted that the matter was referred to the Traffic Management Committee and discussed at the meeting of 7 August; the Traffic Committee meeting were advised that there was funding available to realign the intersection through the "*Nation Building 2 Funding*"; and that DIER does not yet know when these works will be carried out. The DIER representative advised further that DIER would not support lowering the speed limit to 80kph.

**Action**

*Matter finalised.*

**d) Reduction in Rural Road Default Speed Limits**

The Committee noted correspondence received by Council, from the Hon. David O'Byrne MP, Minister for Infrastructure dated 26 August 2013 in which he stated that:

*"... This week I have confirmed that the default speed limit on rural roads, statewide, will not be reduced from 100kmh to 90kmh – instead the government will continue to roll out a major education campaign and continue to work with local communities and councils to keep Tasmanians safe on our roads..."*

**Action**

*Matter finalised.*

**e) Other – Traffic, Signage & Road Marking Issues**

At the 25 July meeting it was noted that:

- 1) Visibility at the corner of Blenheim and Falmouth streets had been reduced as a result of a fence being erected.  
The Committee noted that this matter had been referred to the Traffic Management Committee and the following advice was received from DIER:  
*meets the standards requirements for a giveway.*
- 2) Street sign at the corner of Nevin and Lee streets in Rossarden required repair. The Committee noted that a customer request was issued and the sign repaired on 29/8/2013.
- 3) Road markings at the entrance to Benham (from Royal George road)

required attention. The meeting noted that the matter had been referred to the Traffic Management Committee and Tasmania Police, and the following advice had been received

*This is a common misunderstanding it is not illegal to cross a solid white line when turning. It is only illegal to cross a double white line or to overtake on a solid white line. ...discussed this with Sgt. Nick Clark of Tasmania Police who has confirmed that this is correct.*

*Section 3 confirms that it is OK to cross a solid line when turning into or out of a property entrance.*

#### **Action**

*Matters finalised.*

#### **v) Waste Transfer Station and Avoca/Royal George Waste Collection Service**

As part of the 2013/14 budget Council implemented a new kerbside waste collection service for Avoca and Royal George townships (to commence 6 August), i.e. fortnightly collection plus WTS on restricted supervised hours with gate charges. No change was made to the Rossarden service. The service to be provided to properties within residential areas only.

The Committee noted that the 25 July recommendation of the Committee to Council, that Council open the WTS on a Saturday and also a weekday, as the changed opening hours affected businesses was tabled at the 19 August Council meeting and the following was the decision of Council at this time:

- ii) investigate the Waste Transfer Station at Avoca opening on an additional day (weekday) and that a report back be provided to the Avoca, Royal George & Rossarden Local District Committee and Council.*

The meeting noted that on Saturday, 21 September the Avoca WTS did not open as per the time advertised and several residents were upset/ inconvenienced, particularly some farmers and a Royal George resident; the WTS opened at 3.00pm.

Noted that a scheduling error had occurred and a staff member was sent out to attend the site when the error became evident. The contract manager apologised to Council and has made assurances that there will not be a reoccurrence. Council will not take action at this time, but should there be a reoccurrence, penalties on the contract may be considered. Council officers apologised for the inconvenience.

#### **Action**

*The matter of additional open hours under investigation by Council officers, information to be provided at the November meeting.*

#### **vi) Activities for the Youth of Avoca**

Previously, the upgrade of the playground facilities, including a skate park, and Outdoor gym were considered and placed on hold pending the upgrade of Boucher Park.

The meeting noted that an outdoor gym facility was being considered in conjunction with the upgrade of Boucher Park and funding options were being investigated.

The Committee noted that Council's Youth Development Officer, in conjunction with the PCYC, had arranged for a youth and family fun day / barbecue to be held at the

Avoca Hall on Wednesday, 2 October between 10am and 2pm.

#### **Action**

*The committee to be kept informed.*

#### **vii) Road Closures/Improvements**

At previous meetings the deterioration of those roads previously managed by Forestry Tasmania and Gunns had been noted and discussed. The Committee requested Council consider liaising with Break O’Day Council in order to improve “forestry” roads so that tourist attractions, such as waterfalls, could be accessed. This matter was placed on hold due to road ownership issues.

It was noted that at the 24 June 2013 Council Meeting (min. ref. 151/13), Council considered this matter as part of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement - \$100 Million Economic Diversification Funding, the following was the decision of Council at this time:

*That Council send a letter of support in principle to the Break O’Day Council for the upgrading of gravel forestry roads to waterfalls project as tabled at the meeting, and ...*

Cr Knowles to hold discussions with Council officers regarding the roads of particular interest in order that the ownership of roads can be investigated further.

No further information was made available at the meeting.

#### **Action**

*Cr Knowles to provide further information to Council Officers.*

#### **viii) Milford Dam**

At the 30 May meeting a request was made for Council to write to the appropriate authority regarding the installation of screening trees between the dam and the Esk Highway in order to minimise any impact the reflection from the water may have on road users.

Noted that this matter had been investigated previously and information provided to the 22 November 2012 meeting.

At the 25 July meeting, the committee again expressed their concern relating to this matter and requested that screening in close proximity to the Esk Highway be investigated.

The Committee noted that Council officers had emailed Tasmanian Irrigation (TI) and requested information regarding: plantings, screening and/or operations that may impact on, or negate, any issues relating to the possibility of reflections or refraction of light which may impact road users; and ownership.

The Committee noted the following information provided by Tasmanian Irrigation in response to this query:

*We can confirm Tasmanian Irrigation P/L (TI) owns the land the dam is located on. As part of the Lower South Esk Irrigation Scheme development, TI purchased the land from the former landowner, Ian MacKinnon. The land has been fenced off from the remaining part of Mr. MacKinnon’s property which surrounds our land.*

*We have considered the matter of possible glare from the reservoir as has been raised*

*by the local district committee. We are unaware of this issue being a problem elsewhere in the state where there are roads adjacent to water bodies ie. the road into Strathgordon, or on the western side of Great Lake or along any part of the coast line. In regard to Milford Dam we note that any glare from the dam is mitigated by the Esk Main road running parallel to the water body, traffic does not travel directly towards the dam. In our view while drivers are watching the road, they should not be impacted by any glare from the dam. Apart from a very short section the reservoir at full supply level is no closer than about 150m from the road, which should also mitigate any glare. I travelled west along Esk Main Road on Monday in the late afternoon and although there was some very slight occasional glare off the dam it certainly was not distracting, did not impact on my ability to drive along the road and certainly was no where near as bad as say driving into the sun at sunset.*

*We note that DPIPWE have provided a recommendation to the committee in regard to actions if a problem arises. In our view this is probably a reasonable way to manage this matter. As an aside any screening of the dam (which we do not think is necessary) will be difficult to implement as most if not all will need to be done on non TI owned land.*

#### **Action**

*Matter finalised.*

#### **ix) Rates**

In relation to rates paid, attendees at the 25 July meeting requested further information in regard to services provided by Council to the communities in the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden area. The consensus was that the communities were not being adequately serviced.

The Committee noted that Council's Corporate Services Manager has been invited to attend the November meeting of the Committee.

#### **Action**

*Council's Corporate Services Manager to attend the 28 November meeting.*

### **6 PENDING ITEMS**

#### **i) Rossarden – Walks and Attractions**

The Committee requested that access be provided through private land to the Rossarden waterfall. GPS coordinates for the waterfall and access have been established by Council's Engineering Assistant.

#### **Action**

*Matter pending, Cr Knowles to investigate further options.*

#### **ii) Future Ownership of the old Avoca School Site**

At 30 May meeting it was noted that a minute had been prepared by the Education Department seeking ministerial approval to transfer the property to Council. Transfer is awaited.

#### **Action**

*Matter pending response from Education Department.*

### **iii) Old Toilets on Private Land at Rossarden**

At the 21 March meeting the Committee queried the status of the old toilets on private land which had previously been maintained by Council, with Progress Association were available for public use during opening hours.

The meeting noted that public facilities were only available for use during the opening hours of the Museum.

Matter to be placed on hold pending further investigation by Council Officers.

#### **Action**

*Matter pending, subject to investigation by Council Officers.*

### **iv) Rossarden sculpture**

The committee requested that the large tree at Rossarden be pruned, however, any pruning should be done in a manner that would permit the tree to be utilised for a wood carving/ sculpture in the future.

Matter to be investigated for possible consideration as a future budget item. Noted that permits would be required should the project proceed.

The committee were advised that that an application for grant monies to carve the tree had been denied.

#### **Action**

*Matter pending, pending grant funding, to be considered in the 2014/2015 budget deliberations.*

## **7 ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### **i) AMIC Report**

Cr Knowles provided the committee with the following information in her absence:

- there were a number of attendees at the working bee on Saturday 21st September.
- approx 60 trees were planted, staked and mulched. This includes three plane trees planted between the children's play area and the road.
- the septic tank has sunk - NMC is aware
- the park garden plans are ready for the drainage pipes so when the septic is repaired the pipes to the garden, cost included in the septic tank budget, can be put in place as per the plan given to Council's Plumbing Inspector.
- Council has approved a load of soil as soon as the pipes are in the ground.
- an application has been made to the Tasmanian Community Fund for two pieces of gym equipment to go on the western side of the park near the two cement slabs and the bus shelter.
- Council has approved a bench seat to be placed on each cement slab when the gym equipment funding is approved.

## **8 NEW BUSINESS**

### **i) Resignation**

The meeting noted that Mrs Dennis had tendered her resignation from the committee as she would be relocating out of the area. The Committee expressed their appreciation to her for her contribution to the Committee during her time as a member.

#### **Action**

*Council to send a letter of appreciation to Mrs Dennis.*

### **ii) Customer Requests**

The following requests were made

- Rubbish bin to be placed on the western side of Boucher Park, near the school bus shelter, preferably a green one similar to the others at the park.

#### **Action**

*Bin to be installed near the bus shelter – included on Council's list of bins for installation, however it will be some time before it is installed as a concrete base is required.*

- A table and chair setting, similar to those in the front of the park, to be placed in front of the established tree that is within the area planted with the new trees at the back of the museum. The setting will most likely need to be placed on a cement slab.

#### **Action**

*Customer request to be issued.*

### **iii) Communications Tower**

The Committee requested that Council officer's advise the committee in relation to the new tower that had been erected north east of Avoca.

#### **Action**

*Matter to be investigated.*

## **9 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 6.42pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 28 November 2013 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.