

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 24 MAY 2012 COMMENCING AT 6.25PM

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs C Freeman, Mrs S Freeman, Ms C Grey, Mrs S Squires, Mrs M Dennis, Mrs H Reynolds, Cr M Knowles, Mr A Wilson – General Manager, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

Visitor – Mrs V Burn

2 APOLOGIES

Mr T Gee, Mr A Hicks

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Cr M Knowles/Mrs M Dennis

That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 22 March 2012 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.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to receive the information.

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) Monitoring Water Quality St Pauls River

It was noted that Mr Michael Reid, Leasing and Rehabilitation Officer of Mineral Resources Tasmania, had advised Mr Wicks on 24 January 2012 that the Trust Fund committee approved funding for the following work at Royal George for the 2011/12 financial year:

- *Water sampling program undertaken by Greg Dowson (EPA).*
- *Reinforce track closure points if breached by recreational vehicles (2 new entry points identified with John Pearn on 8 December 2011 – John to block access points).*
- *Two additional sediment retention ponds on the lower tailings.*
- *Maintenance repairs to existing drainage structures as required.*

- *Investigate/revisit diversion of surface water flow from southern end of tailings to clean water diversion drain that runs along the eastern edge of tailings.*
- *Spread ag-lime over tailings (autumn 2012).*
- *Fertilise existing vegetation, areas sown during 2011, and areas proposed for 2012 planting.*
- *Plant seedlings and sow native seed over approximately 2 hectares of tailings.*
- *Ongoing weed monitoring and control.*

Drainage and earthworks have also been planned to be undertaken as soon as possible, when ground conditions are dry enough, with vegetation works planned for autumn.

Mrs Eacher advised that Mr Michael Reid, Leasing and Rehabilitation Officer of Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) had provided the following information to Council on 16 May 2012:

Completed further minor drainage modifications, including an additional 5 settling ponds along the eastern drainage channel and at the northern end of tailings. This has not yet been mapped. More minor drainage work is anticipated next year.

Soil sampling (grab samples) was conducted along the length of the tailings (north-south) in late 2011 to inform further cultivation and vegetation efforts.

Cultivation (mounding), sowing native seed, and planting Poa and Juncus plugs was completed over an area of approximately 2 hectares. This included an additional fenced plot.

Lime was applied to the whole tailings area.

Fertiliser was applied around existing native vegetation, areas cultivated and sown last year, and areas cultivated and sown this Autumn.

Patches of gorse towards the northern end of tailings were sprayed.

This year's plantings were weighted towards species that germinated and appear to be doing well from last year's 'shotgun' seed mix. This mainly includes: Juncus pallidus, Poa labillardierei, Lomandra longifolia, Goodenia ovata and Cassinea aculeata.

We have also entered into a partnership with the University of Tasmania Department of Plant Science. They have an Honours student undertaking a project on the tailings to investigate factors affecting germination and growth. We hope this will inform efforts to establish vegetation on other tailings sites as well as Royal George. Thesis is due at the end of this year...

Further, that the Department of Health and Human Services had also advised that there had been significant rehabilitation work undertaken with evidence of good progress with fencing, and revegetation.

The Committee advised that rehabilitation works had also been undertaken in the Rossarden and Storys Creek areas.

Action

Council to monitor progress and provide regular updates to the Committee.

ii) Flood Warning Advice – Avoca

The resolution of the Committee at the meeting of 19 January 2012:

That the weather warnings/advisories which are downloaded by Council Officers from the Bureau of Meteorology website be forwarded to Mr Alfred Hicks at the Avoca General Store and Mr Shirley Freeman at the Avoca Post Office.

was ratified by Council on 20 February.

It was noted that Council does receive some email advisories from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), however, Council Officers download information from the BOM website and forward that information to Councillors. The information required relates to road closures and it was noted that Council could only forward warnings/advisories that were received during office hours and recommended that the advisories posted on the Bureau of Meteorology website for current updates be accessed. Council Officer to forward information as required.

Action

No further action.

iii) Annual Special Rubbish pick-up

In addition to advertising the “Special Rubbish pick-up” service in the Examiner, Council to provide the Avoca Post Office and General Store with notices advising of the details for display. Also, at least one month before the date, advise the Rossarden Postal Agency in order that an advertisement can be placed in the Rossarden Echo.

Action

No further action at this time.

iv) Installation of Electrical Power Point in Barbecue Area

The matter of providing an electrical power point in the barbecue area had been further investigated, and was considered that such an installation would not be appropriate. It should be noted that provision of a power point for general use is not provided in other barbecue shelters in Northern Midlands.

Action

Matter to be further discussed with the Works & Infrastructure Department.

v) Activities for the Youth of Avoca

The matter of providing the youth in Avoca with appropriate activities was further discussed. It was noted that at times activities are held by various groups.

The committee discussed the possibility of the introduction of a Scout group (to be assisted by the Campbell Town Scouts) and that a suitable venue would need to be sourced. The old police station was suggested as a possible venue - ownership to be established.

An upgrade of the playground facilities, including a skate park, at Boucher Park was also suggested.

The Committee was advised that in order to establish a skate park funding would need to be sourced and the criteria for obtaining grants usually included input from the community; therefore fundraising initiatives would need to be undertaken.

Action

Investigate suitable venue/s for use by a future Scout Group.

vi) Waste Transfer Station

The Committee noted that there had been unscheduled closures of the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) due to the bins not being emptied.

The matter had been investigated and the Committee was advised that

- a) a procedure was now in place to relieve drivers unable to fulfil duties due to unforeseen circumstances.
- b) regular discussions were held between the Caretaker of the Waste Transfer Station and the Assistant Works Supervisor.

Action

No further action required.

vii) Road Closures/Improvements

The Committee raised concerns regarding the deterioration of the roads previously managed by Forestry Tasmania and Gunns. A request was made that Council consider liaising with Break O'Day Council in order to improve "forestry" roads so that tourist attractions can be accessed. Mention was made of a number of waterfalls in the area which were currently difficult to access from Avoca.

Action

That a customer request to be issued to investigate improvements to roads in order to gain access to tourist attractions such as waterfalls (in conjunction with Break O'Day Council where appropriate).

viii) Milford Bridge

The Committee raised concerns in relation to the surface of the new bridge, as it appeared to be shiny and when frost fell may prove to be a problem. Following investigation, via customer request, the Works & Infrastructure Manager advised that other bridges had been asphalt sealed and there had been no issues in this regard.

The matter was further discussed by the Committee and further concerns were raised. The committee requested that the Works & Infrastructure Manager investigate the matter further and undertake an inspection of the bridge.

In addition it was queried whether a load limit was placed on Milford Bridge and if so, signage was required.

Action

That a customer requests be issued:

- a) requesting the Works & Infrastructure Manager to investigate the bridge surface, including undertaking an inspection of the bridge; and
- b) requesting the Engineer/Assistant Works Supervisor to investigate the load limit signage on Milford Bridge.

ix) 50km/h Speed Sign

The placement of the first 50km/h and 80km/h speed signs on the south western entrance to Avoca were queried. It was noted that the intent was to slow traffic just prior to the bridge; and that perhaps the 50km/h sign should be placed just prior to accessing the bridge and the 80km/h sign should be a 60km/h sign.

The committee requested that the placement of the 80km/h and 50km/h speed signs be assessed by the Traffic Management Committee.

Following investigation, DIER provided the following response:

The 50kmph speed limit prior to the bridge was introduced by DIER's speed limit coordinator Peter Hubble, and was a result of locals being concerned with pedestrians on the bridge.

I agree the 50kmph limit is a fair way out from the town but introducing a interim 60kmph would exacerbate the situation.

Further, DIER do not generally reduce speed increments by any less than 20kmph at a time as this just creates clutter and confusion with too many changes.

At this stage DIER do not envisage further amendments.

Action

No further action to be taken.

x) Pecuniary Interest / Special Committee of Council

The status of the Committee and why the Committee were required to declare a pecuniary interest under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, were queried.

Further information in relation to Pecuniary Interest was provided by Mr Wilson and an extract from the Local Government Act was provided to the Committee for information.

Action

No further action.

6 NEW BUSINESS

i) Website

The Committee was informed that the development of web pages for all of the major towns in the Northern Midlands on Council's website, including Avoca is underway

and that the domain name of avocatasmania.com (and other town names) had been reserved.

The Committee provided input in relation to their requirements for the webpage, including provision for Royal George and Rossarden on the webpage. It was further agreed to provide further information, including links to websites. The Committee requested Council maintain the webpage.

Action

Development of the webpage to continue, the Committee to provide information and web links to Council for inclusion on the page.

ii) Weather protection at Barbecue Shelter

The Committee was advised that Council preferred not to install shadecloth in barbecue areas as this was frequently vandalised and was not considered practical to install on the Main Road side of the shelter.

The Committee requested that the installation of shadecloth, together with a lattice support, be reconsidered for installation to protect the shelter from the prevailing weather, i.e. the St Pauls Place side, on either side of the entrance.

Action

Customer request to be issued requesting consideration of the installation of shadecloth, together with a lattice support, on either side of the entrance, to protect the shelter from the prevailing weather, on the St Pauls Place side of the shelter.

iii) Drainage/ Surface Water Issues

a) St Pauls Place, Avoca

The matter of water, possibly sewerage, rising to the surface in the vicinity of 9 St Pauls Place was again raised as the matter had not been resolved.

b) Churchill Street, Avoca

The Committee advised that water was still rising up through the surface of the road/verge and that grass was growing in the cracks and that the road had been resurfaced, without the necessary repair being made to the road surface prior to resurfacing.

Action

a) St Pauls Place, Avoca

Customer request to be issued requesting the Environmental Health Officer to attend the site and investigate the matter further.

b) Churchill Street, Avoca

Customer request to be issued requesting the Works and Infrastructure Department to investigate the matter of the water rising through the cracks and the repair thereof.

iv) Rossarden – Walks and Attractions

The Committee requested whether it would be possible to provide an access through private land to the Rossarden waterfall.

Action

Ownership of the land in question to be established.

v) Voluntary Ambulance Service

The Committee was advised that there were currently only 2.5 Ambulance Service volunteers available and that more volunteers were needed otherwise the service may be in danger of ceasing. A sausage sizzle is to be held on 4 June with the aim of recruiting volunteers.

Action

An advertisement to be placed in the next edition of the Country Courier, calling for volunteers for the Ambulance Service (Avoca).

7 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.06pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 19 July 2012 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.