

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2012, COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM

## 1 **MEMBERSHIP**

In accordance with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding, nominations were invited from interested persons to fill the nine vacancies on the Ross Local District Committee for a term of two years.

Nominations were received from:-

Mrs Jill Bennett  
Mr Peter Bewg  
Mr Geoff Cadogan-Cowper  
Mr Allan Cameron  
Mrs Judith Cummins  
Ms Gwyneth Jenkinson  
Mr Stephen Kummerow  
Mr Andrew Petrie  
Mr Denver Solomonsz

## 2. **ATTENDANCE**

Mr G Cadogan- Cowper-Chairperson, Mr L Harwood-Secretary, Mr P Bewg, Mr A Cameron, Mr S Kummerow, Mr A Petrie, Mr D Solomonsz, Cr A Calvert

## 3. **APOLOGIES**

Mrs Cummins, Ms Jenkinson and Mrs J Bennett

## 4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Mr Kummerow / Mr Cameron

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held at the Reading Room Ross on Tuesday 18 October 2011 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Carried

## 5. **ANNUAL REPORT**

As Chairperson of the Ross Local District Committee, Mr Cadogan – Cowper circulated a copy of the annual report as set out hereunder:-

*“What we are and what we do:*

The Ross & Local District Committee (RLDC) is a Special Committee of the Northern Midlands Council which advises the Northern Midlands Council on matters affecting the ratepayers of Ross and the surrounding district. Members of the Committee are drawn from the community and meet monthly to develop advice on current and emerging concerns across the whole range of municipal issues.

*Our environment:*

In last year's report, it was observed that governments were in turmoil and that economies at every level from global to local were under serious threat. That situation has, if anything, grown worse. Although Australia has once again been the 'Lucky Country', it is slowly being drawn into the world's economic troubles and Tasmania generally is beginning to suffer. The breaking of the drought in the Midlands is providing some insulation but regional communities are not doing well.

It is in this context that the RLDC must work. For the good of our community, without personal interest and aiming to obtain the very best value from the resources available to us and the Municipality. That is the continuing challenge for the coming year.

*The past year:*

There has been continuing frustration at the slow rate of accomplishment in areas such as planning, zoning and general administration. Notable examples being zoning, land use controls and implementation of requirements to protect the streetscape on which our local economy is so dependent. The RLDC again notes that a comprehensive plan for the streetscape – developed with much effort by the RLDC – was formally adopted by Council some years ago.

Tourism levels continue to erode; it is critical that we maintain the heritage 'feel' that has served Ross so well economically. Inevitably Community interests will conflict with personal interests and I believe the RLDC has acted with propriety in all matters. It is necessary for all of us that this balance is maintained.

Relationships between the RLDC, Councillors and Council staff have been effective and cordial. It has been a rare meeting when one or more Councillors have not been present.

Under Council's Works Manager, Mr Wayne Chellis, the Village has been kept in good condition and prompt attention has generally been given to Customer Action Request forms. This system is working well and enables both RLDC, Council and Council staff to manage the constant and varied tasks of Village maintenance.

The future is for the incoming Committee. All the challenges remain.

*Some of the challenges:*

It was noted in last year's Chair report that GP services remained under threat. They still do, as the financial strictures on health services tend to drive State Government moves to a situation where the bureaucracy is maintained and cuts are borne in service delivery. i.e. we end up with a State health system where all the funds are consumed by staffing with none left to actually deliver services.

It was also noted last year that whilst many of the businesses could change without great risk, loss of some particular businesses would be very damaging. We then saw the loss in activity when the Man O'Ross Hotel closed for 3 months – fortunately in the off tourism season.

To the incoming members of the new RLDC we throw these challenges and hope that our loved Village of Ross will be well served by the RLDC.

I thank all the members of the outgoing Committee for giving up their time. As Chair of the RLDC I have been pleased to serve with a group of people who are able to express their views, argue and then support a common, sensible conclusion. We have had the benefit of Councillor Calvert's regular participation in our meetings – as also that of Deputy Mayor Downie and Councillor Mary Knowles. Their advice and support has been consistently valuable.

I thank the Mayor, Councillors and staff of the Northern Midlands Council.

And, importantly, I thank Lindsay Harwood for his involvement, enthusiasm and hard work for the Committee.”

Mr G Cadogan- Cowper / Mr Cameron  
That the annual report be received.

Carried

## **6 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

### **i) Appointment of Acting Chairperson**

It was **RESOLVED** that Cr Calvert be appointed as Acting Chairperson for the election of office bearers.

### **ii) Appointment of Chairperson**

Mr Cameron/ Mr Bewg

That Mr G Cadogan- Cowper be appointed Chairperson of the Ross Local District Committee for the ensuing 12 month period.

As there were no further nominations Mr Cadogan-Cowper was declared appointed as Chairperson.

Carried

iii) **Appointment of Vice Chairperson**

Mr Cameron/ Mr Bewg

That Mr Kummerow be appointed as Vice Chairperson of the Ross Local District Committee for the ensuing 12 month period.

As there were no further nominations Mr Kummerow was declared appointed as Vice Chairperson.

Carried

7. **REVIEW OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding was circulated for discussion. The document was previously reviewed at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2011.

It was **RESOLVED** that no changes be made other than the inclusion of the provision for Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business discussed.

9. **CLOSURE**

The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting at 4.10pm.