

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE CRESSY LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE CRESSY TOWN HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM

1 PRESENT

Daniel Rowbottom (Chair), Maurita Taylor, Angela Jenkins, Peter Goss, Helen Williams, Helen Howard, Ann Green, Andy Byard, Katie Lamprey

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Mat Clark (JMG Engineers and Planners), Cr Richard Goss

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

5 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.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Andy Byard / Helen Williams

That the minutes of the Cressy Local District Committee meeting held on 29 September 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried unanimously

7 PRESENTATION ON LONGFORD EXPANSION STRATEGY

Council has engaged JMG to prepare a strategy which looks at opportunity for the expansion of the township of Longford.

Mat Clark from JMG will present to the Cressy Local District Committee on the strategy, this will include a summary presentation of the work undertaken to date (including the key issues from the Background Report, Draft Strategy, and proposed stages of expansion), followed by a discussion of the key issues and next steps seeking to obtain feedback on the proposals.

From this presentation the following was noted:

- *Councillor Goss spoke about racecourse development- details on council website.*
- *Katie Lamprey expressed concern for small block sizes in rural area. But agreed to the Idea of Industry Hub.*
- *All agreed that we don't want Cressy connected to Longford.*
- *Concerns for the increased traffic flow onto Cressy Road.*
- *Councillor Goss suggested the expansion should head more along Brumby Street to meet up with Longford Golf Club.*

Mat Clark - Thanked everyone for their time and input.

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

8.1 Town Wayfinding – tear off map – town walk

Committee to confirm attached information to go on second side of tear off map and advise Council Supervisor so proof can be prepared.

Helen Howard / Helen Williams

That proof of final edit be sent to committee for final approval.

Carried

8.2 Cressy Recreation Ground development

Stage 1 complete and handed back over to Council.

Peter Goss gave committee brief of what has been completed. Very happy with the works carried out so far. Things are not quite finished yet.

8.3 Cressy Swimming Pool

Stage 1 nearing completion.

Maurita Taylor gave committee brief: Still nearing completion ready for opening on Nov 21. Committee raised "where are the new banners"? Few things still to be done.

8.4 Bartholomew Park Name Sign and Explanation Plinth

Planning application to be lodged.

To be continued on agenda for next meeting.

8.5 Review of 60km/hr speed limit

Council officers have raised the request to review the 60km/hr speed limit on the Cressy Main Road to 50km/hr with officers at the Department of State Growth. The advice remains that the Department of State Growth will not consider the change. Committee will need to move a motion to go to Council to request a study of the road.

Andy Byard / Helen Williams

For the Council to undertake a study to state growth. Reference was given re: incident on Friday November 12 outside IGA shop.

Carried

8.6 Acquire land at Macquarie Street for recreation area

Council requested a survey of the site for review. Survey prepared and with property owner. Report to go to December Council meeting for Council to consider.

To be continued on agenda for next meeting.

8.7 Australia Day 2022

Reminder to Committee members to spread the word about award nominations: Citizen, Young Citizen, Community Event and Volunteer Recognition.

2022 Northern Midlands Australia Day Event will be held at the Cressy Recreation Ground. Seeking volunteers to join working group to organise event. Please submit names to Council Supervisor as soon as possible.

- *Chairman asked committee for nominees to be sent to council. Also council requires volunteers for the day. Some suggestions for the day:*
 - *Free entry to the Swimming Pool*
 - *Arrange events for the Recreation Ground – Possible cricket match – Games – Jumping Castle- Tug war.*
 - *Contact to be made with Donna Franklin to make some arrangements.*
 - *Chairman will arrange time and date for meeting.*

9 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Images for War Memorial Pool Fence

The next stage of the swimming pool upgrade (next year) will include a new fence which is planned to have images of Cressy War Veterans etched into the glass. If you know of any families who have relatives who fought in the war who would be willing to have their photos on the fence, please could you provide the details to Council Supervisor.

Pool committee have decided to have generic etching into glass panels.

9.2 First meeting of the Cressy Local District Committee 2022

The Committee to set the first meeting of the Committee for 2022, noting the last Wednesday of January 2022 is Australia Day.

19 January 2022 7pm.

9.3 Future budget suggestions

- *Gazebo in park to have maintenance*
- *Barrier around BBQ in park, safety of children running straight onto the road.*
- *Further suggestions bring to next meeting for next budget.*

10 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 8:45 pm.

The next meeting to be held on **19 January 2022 at 7:00pm.**

Minutes of Devon Hills Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Committee

12th December 2021

COVID-19 Safe Plan & Agreement for Hire of Community Hall COVID-19 Requirements for Northern Midlands Council signed and returned prior to meeting.

Present: Phill & Cheryl Canning, Margaret Webster, Alira Davis, Ian Goninon, Lance Turner, Sam Saunders-Battersby, Jeff Battersby

Apologies: Ted Davis, Janet Lambert, Jamie Buckby, Lisa Lucas, Virginia Tempest

Meeting Opened: 3.30pm

Previous Minutes: Moved as correct

Moved as Corrected: Cheryl Canning

Seconded: Sam Saunders-Battersby

All in Favour: All

Business Arising From Previous Meeting

- 1) Garage Sale Day 13th November: Was a success with \$261.90 profit. Very positive feedback from stall holders and patrons. In the future will look at when the Garage Sale Trail Day is held and aim for the same day.

- 2) Merger of Bank Accounts:

NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL									
File No									
Property									
Attachments									
REC'D 20 JAN 2022									
PLN									
BLD									
MYR									
EA									
PLN									
BLD									
MYR									
EA									
PLN									
BLD									
MYR									
EA									

Motion: Close Commonwealth Bank Account Named Devon Hills Neighbourhood Watch BSB 067 603 ACC 10460901 with remaining Balance of \$3.26cr transferred to Devon Hills Residents Committee Account BSB 067 603 ACC 10460928.

Moved: Ian Goninon

Seconded: Phill Canning

Vote: All in Favour

- 3) Alira to look into information sheets from Northern Midlands Council regarding Responsible Dog/Cat Ownership and letter box drop.
- 4) Tas Fire update: No progress with Tas Fire. Northern Midlands Council Workplace Health & Safety Officer has finished & a new candidate has yet to be appointed. Phill will begin process with NM Council once new Officer is appointed. Ian will also followup with NM Council.

While waiting for the above. Committee to put together a Fire Safety & Evacuation Plan flyer with tips on fire safety, encouragement to keep our area safe, key holders name for Reserve Gate Exit. With aim to letter box drop this every October.

Treasurers Report: Tabled by Margaret Webster
Devon Hills Residents Committee Account Balance
Opening Balance: \$1,611.41
In Garage Sale Day \$261.90
Closing Balance: \$1,873.31

Devon Hills Neighbourhood Watch Account \$3.26cr
Moved as Correct: Margaret Webster

Seconded: Phill Canning

All in favour: All

Motion: To pay \$60.00 to Perth Fire Brigade for Christmas Lollies.

Moved: Alira Davis

Seconded: Phill Canning

Vote: All in Favour

General Business:

- 1) Crime Report by Phill Canning: 6th October 2021 – 9th December 2021

During this period there were no crimes of public interest reported to police.

- 2) Information on "Holiday Safety" around having mail collected garbage bins brought in, light timers etc to go with Fire Safety Information flyer.
- 3) Perth Fire Brigade Santa Run: 19th December 2021 arriving at Devon Hills Community Shed around 6.15pm. Flyer is up on Community Notice Board and will be posted on FB again.
- 4) Neighbourhood Watch AGM; Neighbourhood Watch are now working in with Crime Stoppers. Phill is going to connect with all and being/continue building relationship. Phill will begin emailing the minutes of NHW meetings to those who are interested.
- 5) Drain: at the Community Shed was leaking and causing issues in shed. Drain has been fixed & NM Council are looking into diverting water to run out in front of Community shed and into drain along the side of road.

6) Closed Meeting Opened: 3.50pm & Closed at 4.29pm

Next Meeting: Sunday 13th February 2022 3:30pm

Meeting Closed: 4.32pm

Devon Hills NHW Crime trend Report



From 06/10/2021 – 09/12/2021

During the above period there were again no crimes reported in the Devon Hills area.

Please continue to report suspicious activity in your area straight away to police on 131 444 (non-urgent) or if you wish to provide information anonymously to help solve a crime, phone Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report online at; [Crimestopperstas.com.au/report-a-crime/](https://crimestopperstas.com.au/report-a-crime/)

Devon Hills Residents Committee and Neighbourhood Watch
 Treasurer's Report
 December 2021
 Residents Committee

Opening Balance \$1611.41
 In
 16.11.21 Garage Sale \$261.90
 Out
 Nil

Closing Balance \$1873.31

Devon Hills Neighbourhood Watch
 Opening Balance \$3.26
 Closing Balance \$3.26

Devon Hills Residents Committee and Neighbourhood Watch
 Garage Sale 13.11.21

In
 Stalls \$170.00
 15x \$10
 1x \$20
 Barbecue \$217.00
 Total \$387.00

Out
 Bunnings \$27.29 (rounded to) \$27.30
 Bread \$10.75
 Sausages \$87.05
 Total \$125.10

Gross \$387.00
 -\$125.10
Nett \$261.90

15th Jan 2022

To Whom it May Concern

Devon Hills Neighbourhood Watch and Community Meeting held on 12th
December 2021 a motion was resolved as follows:

Motion: Close Commonwealth Bank Account Named Devon Hills
Neighbourhood Watch BSB 067 603 ACC 10460901 with remaining Balance of
\$3.26cr transferred to Devon Hills Residents Committee Account BSB 067 603
ACC 10460928.

Moved: Ian Goninon

Seconded: Phill Canning

Vote: All in Favour

Phill Canning

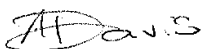
President

Margaret Webster

Treasure

Alira Davis

Secretary



CAMPBELL TOWN DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting held on Tuesday 7th December 2021 commencing at 9.30am.

- 1.0 Present:** Mrs Jill Clarke - Chairperson
Mrs Jill Davis, Ms Sally Hills, Mr Danny Saunders, Ms Jo Taylor, Mrs Fiona Oates,
Mrs Tracy Spencer-Lloyd, Ms Michella Wright (new member - welcomed)
- 2.0 In Attendance:** Ms Isabella Aitkinson, Mr Leigh McCullagh- NMC works manager
Special Guest - Denise – Road Manager – State Growth
- 3.0 Apologies:** Mr Owen Diefenback, Cr Andrew Calvert, Ms Sarah Annesley (has
handed in her resignation due to work and family pressures)

Guest Attendance: Denise MacIntyre, General Manager of State Roads

- 4.0 Declaration of any Pecuniary Interest by a member of a special committee of Council**
None

- 5.0 Confirmation of Minutes**
The minutes of the Campbell Town District Forum held on Tuesday, 2 November 2021 were a true and correct record of proceedings.
Moved: Fiona Oates Seconded: Jill Davis

6.0 State Growth/Roads

Denise MacIntyre was welcomed and a fulsome discussion was held concerning the following:

1. The disappointment of the Forum and Community over the lack of communication about the underpass. It was recognised that it will be of enormous benefit (and safety) to the school students and teachers using the sports facilities at Campbell Town Memorial Oval. It was pointed out that there is no continuous footpath along the northern side of the Midlands Highway leading to the underpass. The works have now commenced on site.
Ms Aitkinson requested that the percentage of the project kept for art works be used to provide murals to brighten the underpass tunnel. This was agreed.
2. There does not appear to be a specific traffic management plan (current) for Campbell Town.
3. The Midlands Hwy/High Street from the oval to the Red bridge was discussed at length with regard to the safety of those crossing the road, vehicles exiting from side streets and the parking of both private and commercial vehicles including buses. The following was noted:
 - State roads are responsible for the centre lanes of the highway with the NMC responsible for the remainder of the width of the roads including footpaths

- CTDF and the local community would like to be involved in all communications and decision making regarding any proposed works to the High Street
- The safety of the structure of the Red Bridge is continually monitored
- Traffic lights can be installed on the highway if appropriate
- Pedestrian Island and increased pavement widths to reduce the width of the highway can be implemented
- Sightlines can be increased for vehicles emerging from side streets
- Flashing speed reduction signs for peak periods can be used if appropriate
- The CTDF can request a safety review of the existing speed limits from the Transport Commissioner by passing on recommendations to NMC Gail Reacher/Denise MacIntyre
- The proposed designs for the Midland Highway upgrades from Mona Vale to Campbell Town and from Campbell Town to Epping Forest were tabled. The plans will be left in the museum for viewing. State roads will welcome any feedback/concerns on the design. Work is due to commence in 2022 and will take approximately 18 months

7.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Bicentennial Celebrations

A successful cricket match was held jointly with Ross at Ross Football ground. The final event will be a BBQ at the Community Fair run by the Footy Club at the CT memorial oval on 18th.

7.2 Sale of Campbell Town Hall

Decision of Council to sell the Town Hall in Campbell Town has been appealed to the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal. Outcome to be determined in the new year.

7.3 Campbell Town Entrance Statement

Awaiting completion, and installation.

7.4 Historic Information Signs and Tourist Town Entrance Signs

New signs have been ordered, awaiting delivery and installation

7.5 Banners

Banners ordered, awaiting delivery and installation

Motion:

As a Forum we would like to express our disappointment, despite various requests over the last couple of years, that none of the proposed signage (7.3-7.5) has eventuated in time for the 200 years celebration of the naming of Campbell Town.

Moved: Fiona Oates Seconded: Danny Saunders

7.6 Invitations

The following groups and organisations were suggested:

- Tasmania Police (visited)
- Ambulance Tasmania
- TasFire
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Brian Mitchell

Committee to pursue invitation to Brian Mitchell to attend the February meeting and invite the Liberal senator to the March meeting.

7.7 Upgrades to the Campbell Town Skate Park

Jill Davis and Fiona Oates have been working with CTDHS teacher Judy Clegg and the students who have submitted a Power Point presentation to NMC for consideration. They have been invited to attend and present it to the NMC workshop on Monday 7th February 2022.

7.8 Community Newsletter/Community Noticeboard

Due to the resignation of Sarah Annesley this will be revisited.

The IGA to be asked if a larger noticeboard could be mounted above the external seat in front of the IGA. As well as Notices it could contain details of emergency numbers and businesses.

7.9 Membership of the Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust

Motion:

CTDF has elected Danny Saunders as its representative to the Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust. The Council advise the Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust of his election.

8 New Business

8.1 2022 Meeting Dates

Meetings for 2022 will take place on the following dates:

- No January meeting
- 1 February
- 1 March
- 5 April
- 3 May
- 7 June
- 5 July
- 2 August
- 6 September
- 4 October
- 1 November
- 6 December

8.2 Swimming Pool

Motion: CTDF request that a way be found to reinstitute morning swimming at Campbell Town pool. Suggested time 6.30am-7.30am.

Moved: Ms. Tracey Spencer-Lloyd Seconded: Mr Danny Saunders

8.2 Town Appearance

It was noted that it was stated in the 2017 Report summary that the town lacks a coordinated appearance and style. Mrs Fiona Oates requested this be considered when planning future developments and signage.

9.0 Closure

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 11.15am

Next meeting to be held on 1 February 2022 at 9.30am at the Town Hall, upstairs meeting room.

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 7th DECEMBER 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chair), Jill Bennett, Candy Hurren, Helen Davies, Christine Robinson, Michael Smith, Marcus Rodrigues, Herbert Johnson, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Keith Jolly

3 APOLOGIES

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Councillor Janet Lambert.

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 2nd November, 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Michael Smith / Candy Hurren

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Ross Pool

The installation of the pool liner has been completed, and the pool is scheduled to open on Saturday, 11th December.

There has already been a number of enquiries regarding the purchase of Ross pool season tickets and if they may be used in conjunction with the Campbell Town pool.

School visits from Oatlands are already booked in.

6.2 Village Green

Work is still ongoing, however no firm date for the opening ceremony has yet been advised. It is expected to be the end of January 2022. The bicentenary function planned for New Year's Eve on the green, will unfortunately not go ahead.

J Bennett raised the issue of the main gates opening outwards and on to the footpath instead of inwards towards the green. Unable to change opening direction, because if they opened inwards they would be impeded by the entrance arbour. Also, there doesn't appear to be the number of trees (mature) planted as per the plan. Perhaps next winter, more mature trees could be planted.

Would it be possible to find out how much exactly has been spent on this project for the information of ratepayers?

Lighting in the park is very bright, are they automatically switched off at a set time?

Question asked if there is going to be a drinking fountain? Committee discussed the issues around Covid in regard to this item.

Chair will discuss some of these matters with Council's Works Manager.

6.3 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations

Dec, New Year's Eve on The Village Green, will unfortunately not be held on the Village Green.

The Bicentennial Cricket match held on the 5th December between Ross and Campbell Town was a great success, well attended and greatly enjoyed. A fabulous day for cricket.

6.4 Clearing The Macquarie River

The issues of great concern are infestations of Cumbungi weeds and debris from previous floods needing removal. Chair contacted DPAC regarding the current condition of the Macquarie River, DPAC suggested referring the matter to DPIPW. Following this information, the Chair has contacted DPIPW and is awaiting a response.

Matter ongoing.

6.5 Condition Of Trees in Ross

Council's Works Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh, has advised that the Victorian tree inspection company ENSPEC have booked to be in Tasmania 1st December 2021 to conduct their inspection of the trees in Ross.

No information as to whether this has been completed, as Works Manager on leave.

Chair to seek an update.

6.6 Badajos Street Rail Crossing

NMC has also advised this issue will have to go in next year's Capital Works Budget Request List if it is to be widened, using Council's funds.

An application for widening the crossing could possibly be made to TasRail for consideration in the next tranche of TasRail infrastructure funding, once the funding criteria and application process is determined.

The crossing has recently been resealed/repared by TasRail. There are still queries as to who actually owns the land abutting each side of the crossing itself. Is it up to NMC to complete the re-widening of the road approaches to the crossing, or are TasRail also wholly or partly responsible?

After discussion as to the costs associated with any widening of the Badajos Street approaches, and the effect that funding the widening of this crossing would have on future Ross Capital Works Budgets, it was suggested by the Chair that a "Give Way to Oncoming Vehicles" sign on one side of the crossing, would lessen the risk of an accident caused by two vehicles trying to cross the railway line simultaneously. The Committee, with one exception, were in agreement with the Chair's suggestion.

If Council agreed with this suggestion, the decision as to which side of the rail crossing the sign would be placed would need to be made by Council's Traffic Engineers in conjunction with TasRail.

Chair to discuss this matter further with Council's Works Manager.

6.7 Shipping Container In Ross Caravan Park

A caravan has apparently been purchased as a replacement for the demountable and is currently being refurbished in Launceston before being moved to the site.

It was expected to take approximately 6-8 weeks, however, as this issue was first raised in June 2021 completion is taking a lot longer than expected.

Chair to follow up with NMC Planning Department.

6.8 \$2,500 Allowance In Lieu Of Secretarial Support

Council's General Manager has confirmed that the \$2,500 allowance in lieu of RLDC secretarial support for the previous 12 months will be available to be spent on Council approved projects proposed by the RLDC. Committee has discussed various projects, and currently the general consensus is for a bench seat on the grass behind the Cenotaph facing north.

Chair to check with Works Manager if one is available from the depot. If a bench seat is not available then it was suggested that the funds be used for the purchase of one.

6.9 Weather Damage to Ross Reading Room

The cornerstones and the bottom course of sandstone bricks at the entrance of the reading room are weathering away and in need of attention. A report detailing the current condition of the sandstone footings and possible measures that could be taken to stop further deterioration was received from Council's Heritage Consultant.

It was mentioned that a similar problem had occurred to another heritage property on the main street of Ross and it was determined that water flow was the issue.

Chair to follow up with Council's Works Manager.

6.10 Council's Capital Works Budget 2021/2022

Council has released the Ross Capital Works Budget for financial year 2021/2022.

Budget distributed to the RLDC after clarification was received from Council's Maree Bricknell.

Committee noted information.

6.11 Water Leak Outside Ross Hotel

Chair contacted TasWater who stated that the leak is occurring in a Council sprinkler line. The Council's Works Manager undertook to have Council's local team have a look at the leaks. It appears to be the sprinklers on the hotel side of Bridge Street. The pipe and fittings are very old and replacements hard to source. May need to be replaced altogether.

Chair to follow up.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Ross Markets

The Ross Village Markets Group have raised \$28,403 over the last 10 years for the betterment of the Ross and Campbell Town communities.

Chair mentioned it was an outstanding effort for a small committee in a small town.

7.2 Round Table Discussion

H Johnson – (1) Stormwater Drainage Report, has it been completed? Chair advised that the anticipated completion date for the report was December 2021 depending on the receipt of further data from Landowners. (2) Trees and undergrowth on the northern side of the cricket ground need tidying. Lower limbs need to be removed to allow cars to park underneath in the shade. (3) Can NMC do spraying for weeds, particularly area near quarry? (4) Church Street sprinklers need to be repaired, however it would appear this has already been done? Asked for a tool to be given to shop owner to turn on sprinklers, but Chair was previously advised by Council's Works Manager that this had already been provided.

Chair to follow up on some of these items.

C Robinson – (1) Tradesperson trimmed trees and rubbish at the hotel and then blew rubbish out onto the road. They were asked to clean up but reply was that Council would do it. Not a great attitude or the right answer. (2) In the past, NMC received a grant to put up a new highway sign – does anyone remember it? Has anything been done? Committee could not immediately recall this matter.

J Bennett - (1) Bollards that were to be fixed on the way to the bridge. Tops of the bollards have been fixed but the chain linking them has not been put back. Would like to see the chain back as some have it and some do not. Committee stated they would like to see it all put back, but Chair recalled a conversation with Council's Works Manager where it was stated that the chains were a safety issue? (2) Thanked the Chair and Honorary Secretary for their efforts on the committee this year. Committee concurred.

C Hurren – In the old original cemetery, names on the headstones very hard to read. Committee discussed the placing of a plaque or a board with grave names and dates. Firstly, there would be a need to ascertain who owns the original cemetery and progress from there.

H Davies – (1) The mouse issue in the Town Hall appears to have been fixed, as cupboards, etc are clean. Would like to acknowledge the work done by NMC. (2) The thistles on the church ground/river walk were removed and tidying was carried out by Gary White, and the committee would like to formally acknowledge his contribution to the church grounds and the path. (3) Storage room at the Town Hall appears to be packed with stuff. Film committee and market group finding it difficult to access their items, or the electrical board, due to the congestion (photos shown) and it is becoming an occupational health and safety issue. Could local groups and regular users be given first priority to the space? (4) Town Hall Cleaners don't get a long time to clean and recent users appear to have the hall in a terrible condition. A suggestion that a "cleaning fee" be instigated; something for NMC to consider. (5) Also there is a drainage issue in Park Street however this will be covered under the Stormwater Drainage report being prepared for Council.

M Smith – Asked who is responsible for the notice board near the phone boxes in the main street. It needs cleaning/repainting, and removal of some of the notices as they are very old and out of date. Discussed having a working bee to carry out these items. Ownership of the notice board would have to be ascertained before any action is considered or undertaken.

M Rodrigues – Asked about information regarding building density in Ross. Members of the community had approached him regarding subdivisions, etc. Chair advised it was best for

concerned residents to contact NMC Planning Department directly to discuss. Enquiries with Council's Planning Department are only able to be made on certain days and at certain times, Chair will check and advise the committee when these days and times are.

There is also a document, "*The Northern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme*" that regulates all development in the Northern Midlands Council area and which can be accessed through Councils website via the link below.

(<https://northernmidlands.tas.gov.au/planning/development-in-the-northern-midlands/interim-planning-scheme>)

K Jolly – Concern that the herbicide sprayed around the bollards has killed a huge amount of grass, which then leads to erosion and cause the bollards to fall over. Realise the need for spraying, but perhaps a concrete plinth could be added to keep grass away from the bollards. Perhaps as an alternative Committee members could volunteer to assist with filling and seeding, however this would not prevent future overuse of herbicides around the bollards.

Chair to discuss with Council's Works manager.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.30 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 1st February 2022 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.



NMBA Funding Activity Update

Program 6 - Enabling Increased Executive Officer Contribution to NMBA

December, 2021

Purpose:

Northern Midlands Council has approved assistance funding for 6 activity areas by Northern Midlands Business Association.

The purpose of this document is to provide Northern Midlands Council with an update on Program 6 - which is to provide the NMBA with additional hours by its Executive Officer.

Background, intent, and structure:

The background provided in the proposal for Program 6 was:

- That Council funding for the NMBA Executive Officer has remained unchanged at approximately 10 hours per week since 2016

The funding requested was to enable NMBA to:

- Increase Council-funding of NMBA Executive Officer from 10 to 15 hours per week

The structure of this funding in the resulting plan to Council was:

- 50% invoiced in July 2021 and 50% invoiced in December 2021

Activity Status:

As a result of the provision of the first 50% of Program 6 funding, the NMBA Board has utilised this funding, plus additional funds from member and other activities, to increase the contribution of the executive Officer from its historical average of 10 hours per week, to in excess of 15 hours per week.

As a result, the NMBA Board has been enabled through this additional funding support and resulting increased member patronage, to increase the Executive Officer contribution over this period to date as follows:

- 15- 30 July 2021 - 35 hours or 17.5 hours per week
- 16-31 July 2021 - 31 hours or 15.5 hours per week
- 1-15 August 2021 - 39 hours or 19.5 hours per week
- 16-31 August 2021 - 21 hours or 20.5 hours per week
- 1-15 September 2021 - 45 hours or 22.5 hours per week
- 16-30 September 2021 - 60 hours or 30 hours per week
- 1-15 October 2021 - 33 hours or 16.5 hours per week
- 16-31 October 2021 - 29 hours or 14.5 hours per week
- 1-15 November 2021 - 30 hours or 15 hours per week
- 16-30 November 2021 - 36 hours or 18 hours per week

The increased resources have enabled NMBA to increase its support of businesses during the period as highlighted in the publicly released Activity Report launched at its AGM and available in the Plan section of www.nmba.asn.au

The additional Executive Officer resources have enabled NMBA to initiate or increase its activities in such areas as:

- Mobile black spot programs
- TRANSlink broadband connectivity
- Government lobbying and relationships
- Business support that has led to a 300% increase in paid memberships
- Developing new business red tape reduction program
- Planning work for the other 5 funding assistance program areas

USE OF NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL LOGO

Originated Date:	Adopted 19 March 2012 – Min. No.75/12 (as Policy 62)
Amended Date/s:	Amended 21 March 2016 – Min. No. 62/16 Endorsed 20 August 2018 – Min. No. 219/18 Amended 17 August 2020 – Min. No.267/20 Amended 31 January 2022 – Min. No.
Applicable Legislation:	<i>Trade Marks Act 1995 (Cth)</i> <i>Trade Marks Regulations 1995 (Cth)</i> <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Objective	To ensure that Council retains control over the use of its logo; and Council's role in the community is clearly recognised and its image, reputation and brand are protected and enhanced through accurate, consistent and high quality reproduction of its logo.
Administration:	Governance
Review Cycle/Date:	This Policy will be reviewed as required.

1. COUNCIL LOGO

Council's logo is an important part of our brand and similarly, it represents our identity. The three colours within the logo depict various landscapes within the municipality. The pink/purple represents the morning light on the Western Tiers, the green denotes the vast farming lands and the blue signifies the rivers and waterways in and around our communities.

Council adopted the logo at its meeting of 11 October 1993 (Minute Reference 499/93), and adopted the logo as Council arms in accordance with section 336 of the *Local Government Act 1993* at its meeting of 31 January 2022 (Minute Reference/22).

Council's logo is also a valuable piece of our intellectual property and accordingly, any approved use of the logo will be in accordance with Council's guidelines to ensure Council retains control of its use.

The portrait style high resolution logo is the preferred logo to use and following is a breakdown of the correct logo colours:



2. WHERE SHOULD THE LOGO BE DISPLAYED?

The Northern Midlands Council logo should be clearly displayed in accordance with the guidelines contained within the Northern Midlands Council Style Guide and the *Application/Guidelines for the Use of the Northern Midlands Council Logo*. The logo should be displayed on all Council stationary, documents, written correspondence, advertising, and media releases. In addition to this, the logo may be displayed on Council buildings and vehicles.

3. WHO CAN REQUEST TO USE COUNCIL'S LOGO

Any individual, business, community organisation, school or group that has been supported by way of 'in kind' or via a sponsorship agreement with the Northern Midlands Council may request to use the logo. Such request must be made directly to Council using the *Application/Guidelines for the Use of the Northern Midlands Council Logo*. Authorisation to use the logo does not guarantee any sponsorship or financial support from the Northern Midlands Council.

Completed application forms are to be emailed to Council, with a proof of the intended artwork, including where Council's logo will be placed, for approval prior to publication or display. Northern Midlands Council will confirm the terms and conditions of the use of Council's logo in writing.

Application should be made to Council at least four weeks in advance of the date for which the use of the logo is requested.

4. AUTHORISATION TO USE COUNCIL'S LOGO

Permission to use the logo will be for the specified period only and does not constitute an ongoing arrangement to use Council's logo. For example, the logo may only be used for the express purpose for which approval has been granted. In addition, the logo's reproduction must be in accordance with the Northern Midlands Council Style Guide and the *Application/Guidelines for the Use of the Northern Midlands Council Logo*.

The logo should be accompanied by a statement identifying the nature of Council's involvement or relationship, for example, 'Proudly supported/sponsored by the Northern Midlands Council'. Similarly, where Council's logo appears in conjunction with logos of other external entities, the size of Council's logo should be proportionate to the level of investment or support that Northern Midlands Council has provided, and relative to that of the other entities as well.

A copy of the proposed use and layout showing the positioning and relativity of the logo must be forwarded to the General Manager (or his delegate) for approval and any deficiencies corrected prior to publication.

The logo ~~may~~ **must** not be used in any manner by any person or organisation for electoral or other political purposes.

Northern Midlands Council reserves the right to take legal action to prevent or curtail the unauthorised use of its logo.

APPLICATION/GUIDELINES FOR USE OF THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL LOGO

Please complete this application form and email or post, with your proposed artwork and the placement of Council's logo to:

Post: Northern Midlands Council
P O Box 156
Longford Tasmania 7301
Email: council@nmc.tas.gov.au

Organisation Name: _____

Postal address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Event Title: _____

Event Date: _____

Describe Briefly the intended use of the logo:

To help us supply you with the correct version of the logo and graphic for use, please select from the options.
The logo will be supplied in an electronic format via email.



Portrait
High Resolution
JPEG File



Portrait
Monochrome
JPEG File



Landscape
Colour
JPEG File



Landscape
Monochrome
JPEG File

I acknowledge, understand and accept:

- *To comply with the terms and conditions associated with using the Northern Midlands Council logo.*
- *The Northern Midlands Council logo is only to be used for the express purpose in which it is being sought. If permission is granted, this does not constitute an ongoing arrangement to use the logo.*
- *I must provide a proof/draft of the intended artwork, including where Council's logo will be placed for approval by the General Manager (or his representative) before publication. This should be accompanied by a statement identifying the nature of Council's involvement or relationship.*
- *The Northern Midlands Council logo can only be used for the purpose of the promotion or event outlined in this application.*
- *The Northern Midlands Council logo cannot be edited or distorted in any way and the correct colours as per the Northern Midlands Council Logo Usage Policy must be adhered to.*
- *The General Manager (or his representative) has the right to refuse the design should it be deemed inappropriate or non-compliant with these terms and conditions.*
- *That any deviation from these terms and conditions are not acceptable unless agreed to and confirmed in writing by the General Manager (or his representative).*

Print Name:

.....

Signature:

.....

Date:

.....

Office Use Only:

Logo Request

Approved by:

.....

Signature:

.....

Date:

.....

The following guidelines outline the way in which the Northern Midlands Council logo should be clearly displayed

The Northern Midlands Council logo should never be altered or edited or distorted in any way and likewise, the correct colours as per the Northern Midlands Council Logo Usage Policy must be adhered to.

Establishing the correct size and positioning of the logo will ensure the impact and legibility of the logo is not compromised in any situation.

For example, when using the portrait logo (colour or monochrome) for print purposes the logo should not be less than 20mm wide and for digital purposes, no less than 40 px wide. Similarly, when using the landscape logo (colour or monochrome) for print purposes the logo should not be less than 25mm wide and for digital purposes, no less than 60px wide. This is as per the Northern Midlands Council Style Guide.

To ensure legibility of the logo there is always a minimum clear space around the logo. The clear space isolates the logo from any other graphics that might lessen the impact of the Northern Midlands Council logo. The minimum clear space is calculated as the height of the title area (wording Northern Midlands Council) as



shown in the diagram below.

The Northern Midlands Council logo may be applied to materials such as signage, invitations, posters, programs, newsletters, advertising, websites, merchandise, banners, and brochures once the draft has been approved by the General Manager (or his representative).



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

13 JAN 2022

Mayor Holmdahl
President
Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)
GPO Box 1521
HOBART TAS 7001

E: reception@lgat.tas.gov.au

Dear Mayor

I am writing to you in relation to a matter that in the past few weeks has shaken Tasmanians to their core and resulted in unimaginable heartbreak for many families, friends, and the wider community.

The tragedy at Hillcrest Primary School on Thursday 16 December 2021 resulted in the loss of six young lives and has impacted countless others.

The tragedy is, currently subject to ongoing investigations by police, and will in due course be a matter for coronial investigation.

While in no way pre-empting the outcomes of the investigations and any resulting recommendations, I believe the State Government must immediately move to minimise the likelihood of any similar incidents occurring until such time as recommendations can be considered and specific responses implemented.

The Government has therefore determined that, effective immediately, no new approvals will be issued under the *Crown Lands Act 1976* or the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* that provide for the deployment or use of "jumping castles," "zorb balls" or "similar". This extends the ban already implemented on Department of Education controlled land.

This ban is important to ensure the safety of children and young people, and also to minimise the risk of trauma to children, families, and friends should they see such activities.

I strongly encourage local government to adopt similar measures to prohibit the use of "jumping castles," "zorb balls" or "similar" on land owned or controlled by councils. Again, I see this as an important interim measure until such time as all associated safety issues are thoroughly reviewed.

Please extend my thoughts and best wishes to all councillors, staff, and community members working with local government as we come to terms with this tragic situation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Gutwein', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Gutwein
Premier

GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001 | Telephone: 61 3 6165 7650 | Email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au

Members Brief

MAV INSURANCE

INFLATABLE LAND-BORNE DEVICES: Risk Implications & Proposed Treatments – December 2021

BACKGROUND

Inflatable land-borne devices or “Jumping Castles” are a popular addition to children’s parties, school fetes and community festivals. If operated correctly, jumping castles can be a safe and enjoyable activity for children.

The majority of operators comply with relevant Australian Standards and ensure that jumping castles are safe for children to use. However, there have been several serious incidents reported both in Australia and overseas that highlight the potential risks to users when this type of amusement device is operated incorrectly.

In a report released by Monash University, it was revealed that over a ten year period (January 2001 to December 2010), hospitals in Victoria reported a total of 784 children presenting with injuries associated with jumping castles. Most injuries occurred amongst children aged between 2-8 years (approx. 66%) and were caused by falls (71%).

In this members brief we will examine two incidents that have occurred in Australia to:

- Identify the risks associated with these structures;
- Highlight the responsibilities of jumping castle operators under applicable Australian Standards;
- Examine Councils’ liability exposure to claims arising from these structures; and
- Identify key risk management strategies to minimise injury to users and potential liability claims.



Photo source: Google

We will also consider the risks associated with variety of inflatable structure known as ‘jumping pillows’, which have been installed in outdoor commercial holiday parks and indoor recreation facilities, such as Council leisure centres.

INCIDENT EXAMPLE – 1

During a race meeting held in Adelaide in March 2001, a jumping castle was hit by a strong gust of wind, causing the restraining ropes to release/break and the structure to lift three metres into the air. Twelve children were injured in the incident, one child later died from extensive head injuries.

A Coroner’s inquest into the cause of the child’s death found that:

- The anchorage system recommended by the manufacturer was inadequate and had not been appropriately tested at the design stage (e.g. to determine maximum safe wind speed for operation);

- The operator had adopted an alternate anchorage system for the jumping castle, which was also inadequate and caused the failure.

Following the Coroners recommendation, a specific standard was developed for commercial jumping castles (AS 3533.4.1 – Amusement rides and devices Specific requirements - Land-borne inflatable devices). It sets out requirements and guidance for the design, manufacture, operation and maintenance of land-borne inflatable amusement devices that are static when in use. It also specifies information to be supplied with the equipment.

Unfortunately, these types of incidents are not uncommon, with numerous examples in recent years reported in the UK and USA. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/03/28/7-year-old-dies-after-sustaining-injuries-inside-bouncy-castle/82351720/>

Many of these incidents appear to have involved very similar factors to those that were found to have occurred in the Adelaide incident of March 2001. Clearly operators in the UK and the USA would be subject to very different standards – the specific requirements of which are unknown – however it is recommended that members who have such inflatable devices at their events give due consideration to the following questions:

1. Do you ensure that those operating the equipment provide evidence of;
 - a) Systems to ensure the inflatable is anchored in line with manufacturers specifications?
 - b) If an alternative system of anchoring is used, that it is the equivalent or better to the manufacturer's requirements and in line with AS 3533?
 - c) System in place to monitor the wind speed throughout the event, and stop the use of the device immediately should conditions be outside that specified by the manufacturer?
 - d) Regular inspections of the device are conducted, including (but not limited to) Post-assembly inspection, Daily inspections, and Annual inspection?
2. Are those Council staff dealing with operators of such devices / structures provided with appropriate training / awareness regarding precisely what is required to be provided by the operator?
3. As event organisers, does Council have an effective system in place to monitor the weather in the lead up to and during the event, as well as ensure warning messages are communicated as quickly as possible to all stall holders, ride / device operators and others responsible for temporary structures when adverse conditions are detected?

INCIDENT EXAMPLE – 2

In 2005, a 2 ½ year old boy lost the tip of his finger when he stuck his finger into the unguarded fan used to inflate a jumping castle at a Christmas party in Melbourne.

The operators were prosecuted by Work Safe Victoria under s.24 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 for “failing to ensure that persons are not exposed to risks to their health and safety”.

The Magistrate was concerned that the fan was accessible with no guard around it. Moreover, there appears to have been no or little supervision of the ride. The operator had set up the ride and left prior to the incident occurring. It was also noted that the operators did not have public liability insurance cover.

A fine was issued by the Magistrate to each operator for contravening the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (the equivalent Act for Tasmania is the Work Health and Safety Act 2012).

IDENTIFIED RISKS

The following list provides examples of potential risks that if present, could lead to a child or adult suffering serious injuries through the use and operation of jumping castles. These risks have been identified through previous incidents as well as by asking “***what could go wrong?***”

- Lack of supervision;
- Improper use (e.g. allowing a mix of adults / older children and young children to play in the jumping castle at the same time);
- Improper set-up;
- Inadequate anchoring;
- Tie-down ropes of insufficient strength;
- Use of inflatable structures in windy conditions;
- Access to dangerous parts of the equipment (e.g. unguarded fan / blower unit);
- Electrical hazards, such as exposed electrical contacts;
- Entrapment and suffocation points;
- Exit / Entry points blocked / obstructed in the case of an emergency;
- Collision of users;
- Trip and fall hazards (e.g. due to poor placement of anchorage points);
- Sharp objects present in jumping area (e.g. glasses, buckles on clothing);
- Sudden loss of pressure / deflation due to holes or tears in the fabric of the device;
- Lack of safety mats outside exit / entry points.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OPERATORS

The Australian Standard (AS 3533.4.1 - Amusement rides and devices: Specific requirements: Land-borne inflatable devices) provides advice and guidance in relation to the design, manufacture, operation and maintenance of **commercial** jumping castles. There is currently no equivalent standard for ‘toy’ inflatables, which are typically smaller sized jumping castles available to be purchased from retail outlets for domestic use. However, Work Safe Victoria recommends that the Australian Standard (AS 3533.4.1) be applied to all inflatable land-borne amusement devices, including ‘toy’ devices.

It is noted that ‘water-borne’ inflatables are specifically excluded from the Australian Standard, AS 3533.4.1. Instead, a standard has been updated to provide specific requirements for these types of devices - AS 3533.4.5 – Amusement rides and devices Specific requirements - Waterborne inflatables.

Operators should ensure that before the amusement device is used, they have all necessary information and instructions from the manufacturer and supplier in relation to the installation, operation, maintenance and inspection of the equipment.

Operators should also be aware of their responsibilities under the standard. For instance it is recommended that operators conduct inspections of the equipment ‘post-assembly’, ‘daily’ and ‘annually’. AS 3533.3 In-service inspection - this Standard specifies the basis for in-service inspection of amusement rides and devices. The activities of all those involved in the operational (day-to-day) inspection and checking of the ride or device, the regular inspections related to preventative maintenance and the periodic inspection of the equipment, along with the documentation thereof, are specified.

Routine maintenance is also recommended and corrective maintenance, where defects have been identified. In addition, operators are to assemble the equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and to instruct patrons on the safe use of the equipment.

Councils should be aware that under their applicable health and safety regulations (e.g. Victoria – Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017; Tasmania – Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012) there are specific duties that apply to employers who use, manage, control or hire amusement devices, including 'jumping castles'. For those states and territories that have adopted the Model Workplace Health and Safety Legislation, Safe Work Australia has developed a range of guidance material relevant to amusement devices, which provides specific treatments / controls for managing risks associated with inflatable amusement devices (refer link in References).

Please note that Work Safe Victoria have advised that jumping castles are not considered 'prescribed equipment' under the Equipment (Public Safety) Act (VIC) 1994.

COUNCIL LIABILITY FOR JUMPING CASTLE INCIDENTS

Councils often hire inflatable structures for community fairs and festivals. Alternatively, members of the community may request permission from Council to use jumping castles on Council owned land. A Council in both situations may be exposed to a public liability claim if a member of the public were to sustain an injury whilst using the jumping castle. However, the extent of Councils liability will depend on the particular circumstances of the incident.

It is recommended that Councils become familiar with the Australian Standard and ensure that risk management strategies are in place to manage the risks associated with these devices. Councils may choose to develop their own or adopt the following risk management strategies.



Photo source: Google

1) Suggested Risk Management Strategies: Non-Council Hirer using Jumping Castle on Council Owned Land

- Ensure that written hire agreements are completed for all hirers of Council owned and/or operated facilities.
- Ensure that the hire agreement stipulates conditions of use, public liability insurance requirements, responsibilities of the parties to the agreement and preferred methods of communication between the hirer and Council.
- Ensure that the conditions of use specifically cover risk management requirements in relation to 'Jumping Castles', i.e. hirers must ensure that they are operated in accordance with AS 3533.4.1.

2) Suggested Risk Management Strategies: Council Hirer using Jumping Castle for Council run / organised Event

- Prior to hiring the inflatable device, request evidence from the operator that it has current public liability cover, preferably \$20mil+.
- Request evidence from the operator that the jumping castle meets current Australian Standards.
- Request evidence of the operator's experience, safety and training record.
- Require that the jumping castle be set up by experienced / trained personnel.
- Consider contracting an experienced / trained operator to supervise the jumping castle for the total period of hire.
- Council should request a copy of the post-assembly inspection report conducted by the operator, prior to the inflatable device being used, as well records of daily inspections should the device be in place for more than one day.
- Council should ensure that the operator provides written instructions in relation to the following control and supervision issues:
 - Environmental conditions that may impact patrons' use of the device.
 - A process for regular wind speed monitoring should be established. The use of an on-site wind speed monitor (Anemometer) is in use. Reviewing maximum safe wind speed when the device is in use.
 - Procedure for monitoring current and forecast wind conditions, and evacuation of the device should adverse conditions be detected,
 - The maximum number of patrons that can use the device at one time, based on their height, weight or age.
 - The maximum height, weight or age limits that apply for patrons to use the device.
 - Patron dress code, including foot wear.
 - The minimum number of operators/attendants required to supervise the device and any age restrictions that apply.
- Throughout the period of hire, routine inspections should be carried out and recorded by a competent person (+18 years) to ensure that the device continues to be suitable for use. Such inspections should include checks of anchors and ropes, that the fabric of the device does not contain any holes or tears, that the air pressure is sufficient for the walls of the device to remain firm and upright etc. Please refer to AS 3533.4.1 for further details.
- During the period of hire, a competent person should ensure that any maintenance required, as determined through routine inspections, is performed e.g. removal of debris, securing of anchors and ropes etc. A log book of all inspections and maintenance should be recorded and kept.
- During the period of the event, Council should also consider implementing a system of monitoring current and forecast wind conditions, and ensuring adverse conditions are communicated effectively to all stall holders, ride/device operators and others as required.
- All of the above, identified hazards / risks (but not limited to) should be contained in Councils documented Risk Assessment Template.

JUMPING PILLOWS

Jumping pillows originate from Denmark. They were initially made for outdoor use but more recently an indoor product has become available. As the name suggests, this product is shaped like a giant pillow and designed to be jumped on. The jumping pillow is installed as a 'permanent' inflatable piece of equipment, which requires an electric blower to be kept inflated. According to the USA manufacturer of this equipment (Jumping Pillows LLC), jumping pillows are 'safer' than jumping castles as 'jumping' by one child has very little impact on another child's bounce.



Photo source www.jumpingpillows.com.au

In Australia, outdoor jumping pillows are a popular addition to the recreation facilities available at holiday parks and resorts. Councils are now also installing this type of equipment in their indoor facilities, such as leisure centres.

Any new type of recreational equipment will necessarily attract risks. It is therefore important that Council has conducted a risk assessment prior to purchasing this equipment and ensures that all necessary precautions have been taken to protect users from injury. Council should also consider requesting information from the manufacturer and/or supplier about the safety of the equipment and level of compliance with relevant Australian Standards (i.e. AS 3533.4.1).

Many of the risks that apply to jumping castles also apply to this equipment, such as lack of supervision, collision of two or more users, improper use / behaviour on equipment, and sudden deflation of the equipment. Additional risks that apply to jumping pillows include:

- injuries caused by jumping near the edges (which are less inflated),
- burns due to the surface being hot from sun exposure (applies to outdoor pillows),
- inappropriate or insufficient material used as a safety barrier around the edge of the jumping pillow,
- slipping hazards if the jumping pillow becomes wet (e.g. if installed in a shared-use area near a swimming pool).

If Councils decide to install this equipment, then Councils should ensure the site selected is suitable, with consideration given to the impact of any adjacent activities.

The jumping pillow should be installed by an experienced and trained installer. Sufficient matting should be provided around the perimeter of the Jumping Pillow, in accordance with the Manufacturer's requirements.

Other risk treatments that may be employed include:

- Supervision of jumping pillow whilst in use and enforcement of safety rules;
- Installation of signage near the jumping pillow that notifies users of the safety rules that apply. This signage may be supplied by the manufacturer or developed by Council in consultation with the manufacturer. Rules of use may include:
 - No footwear to be worn;
 - No 'tricks' or 'flips' to be performed;
 - Restrictions on age and number of users;
 - No sitting on the jumping pillow;
 - Jumping pillow not to be used if wet / slippery or deflated.
- Inspections and maintenance of jumping pillow conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, including "pre-use" inspections;
- A log book of all inspections and maintenance should be recorded and kept.
- Through signage or similar, allocate different coloured panels of the jumping pillow to particular age groups. Alternatively, allocate particular times for use to separate younger children from older children including height differences.

All of the above, identified hazards / risks / treatments (*but not limited to*) should be contained in Councils documented Risk Assessment Template.

Further information

MAV Insurance Risk Management

(03) 8664 9344

Risk.Help@jlta.com.au

<https://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/insurance>

REFERENCES

Child injury related to inflatable play equipment – ‘jumpy/bouncy castles’, Monash Injury Research Institute, August 2012 (Source: https://www.monash.edu/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/218590/child-inflatable-play.pdf)

Guidance note: Inflatable jumping castles, WorkSafe Victoria, Aug. 2018 (Source: <https://content.api.worksafe.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-09/ISBN-Land-borne-inflatable-devices-2018-09.pdf>)

Code of practice for Risk Management of Agricultural Shows and Carnivals, Workplace Standards Tasmania, December 2004 <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/cop-folder/risk-management-of-agricultural-shows-and-carnivals>

AS 3533.1: 2009 - Amusement rides and devices - Design and construction

AS 3533.2: 2009 - Amusement rides and devices - Operation and maintenance

AS 3533.3: 2003 - Amusement rides and devices - In-service inspection

AS 3533.4.1: 2018 - Amusement rides and devices: Specific requirements - Land-borne inflatable devices

AS 3533.4.2: 2013 - Amusement rides and devices Specific requirements - Contained play facilities

AS 3533.4.5: 2017 - Amusement rides and devices: Specific requirements – Waterborne inflatables

Safe Work Australia - Workplace amusement devices guidance material
<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/search?search=amusement+devices>

Safe Work Australia

Occupational Health and Safety Act (VIC) 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (VIC) 2017

Work Health and Safety Act (TAS) 2012

Work Health and Safety Regulations (TAS) 2012

Equipment (Public Safety) Act 1994

Equipment (Public Safety) Regulations 2017

Above references updated - 23/12/2021

- APPROVED REFORMS -

REVIEW OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Part A – A flexible, innovative and future-focused legislative framework

Reform	Description
#1 – Principles Based Legislation	Create principles-based legislation that sets the principles of good governance, community engagement and financial management for the governance and operations of local government. Provide supporting detail in regulations where appropriate to provide clarity and flexibility.
#2 – Accessible, easy-to-read legislation	The new Act will be structured logically and be easy to read and understand, while still being legally effective.
#3 – A new Act for electoral provisions	Local government electoral provisions will be separated into a stand-alone Act, to make it easier to understand and administer these provisions.
#4 – Consolidate related local government legislation	Related local government legislation will be examined (such as the Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993) to identify where provisions intersect and overlap with the current Act, and to remove duplication and consolidate provisions where possible.

Part B – Representative and Democratic Councils

Reform	Description
#5 – Reform eligibility for the General Manager’s Roll	<p>The following criteria will apply to the General Manager’s Roll:</p> <p>Criteria 1 – A person must be an Australian citizen to be eligible to be enrolled to vote in local government elections.</p> <p>Criteria 2 – Individuals who are Australian citizens and own or occupy property in a municipal area where they are not residents should be eligible to enrol to vote in that area.</p> <p>Criteria 3 – A person is eligible for enrol to vote if they are the sole nominated representative of a business operating from a property in the municipal area, provided that person is an Australian citizen and is not already on the Roll in that municipal area under any other entitlement.</p> <p>No changes are proposed with regard to eligibility to vote based on enrolment on the House of Assembly roll.</p>
#6 – Reform the voting franchise to reflect ‘one person, one vote’ principle in any one municipality	No individual owner, occupier or corporation or their delegate will get more than one vote per municipality. Owners of corporations will no longer be entitled to a potential second vote within the same municipal area elections.
#7 – Simplify the election process for the positions of mayor and deputy mayor (Not Proceeding)	The current voting process for mayors and deputy mayors will be retained.
#8 – Make alternative voting methods available	Alternative voting methods such as electronic voting will be enabled, in addition to postal voting. The most appropriate voting method will be chosen by the Minister at least 12 months prior to the local government elections.

#9 – Simplify the voting process to reduce informal voting rates	The voting process will be amended to only require boxes to be numbered 1 to 5 to constitute a formal vote. This will remove the requirement for (but will still enable) voters to mark a preference for every available councillor position and/or candidate.
#10 – Introduce caretaker provisions	Caretaker provisions will apply to all councils from the time candidate nominations open, to limit councils making major policy or contractual decisions during an election period. The operational business of councils will still continue and caretaker provisions will provide for this (including where councils have to meet statutory timeframes and obligations).Caretaker provisions will also limit the use of council resources to promote or support candidates.
#11 – Move administration of the General Manager’s Roll from councils to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission	The administration of the General Manager’s Roll will be moved from councils to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.
#12 – Introduce a pre-nomination training package	Potential electoral candidates will be required to complete a training package in order to nominate as a candidate. The training packages would be completed in a simple online format and will provide information about the roles and responsibilities of councillors, rather than testing a potential candidate’s knowledge.
#13 – Introduce a candidate nomination fee (Not proceeding)	This proposal will not proceed. A candidate fee will not be introduced.
#14 – Require the disclosure of gifts and donations received by local government candidates during the electoral period	All electoral candidates will be required to declare gifts and donations received during the electoral period. .
#15 – Align eligibility requirements to nominate as a candidate with State eligibility requirements	Eligibility requirements for local government candidates will be more closely aligned with the current requirements for members of the House of Assembly and Legislative Council, as per the requirements of the <i>Electoral Act 2004</i> and <i>Constitution Act 1934</i> , where appropriate.
#16 – Remove the title of ‘Alderman’	The title of ‘Alderman’, which is currently available to city councillors, will be removed.

Part C – Councils Connected to their Communities

Reform	Description
#17 – All councils will develop and adopt a community engagement strategy	Councils will develop a Community Engagement Strategy after each election, in collaboration with their communities. The Community Engagement Strategy will inform how councils will engage, involve, consult and inform their communities on plans, projects and policies. Councils will be required to follow their Community Engagement Strategy when engaging communities on their Strategic Plan, in determining their service delivery priorities and when setting their budget (including rating decisions).
#18 – Removing prescriptive consultation requirements	Councils will have broadened capacity to engage with their communities in accordance with their Community Engagement Strategy. Wherever possible, prescriptive requirements to provide reports and information in a specified way, such as by post, will be removed. Some specific consultation requirements will be maintained where necessary to protect the rights of the community and councils.
#19 – Remove requirements for public meetings and elector polls (Amended)	<p>In recognition of strong community views about this Reform Direction, community-initiated elector polls and public meetings will be retained in the new Act. However, the threshold to trigger an elector poll will be increased to 20% of electors (currently the threshold is 10%). It will also be a condition that any elector polls or public meetings must relate to an issue over which local government has decision-making authority.</p> <p>Councils will retain the power to initiate elector polls and a new power will be provided for the Minister to initiate a state-wide elector poll on a particular issue if required.</p>

Part D – Responsible and Effective Councils

Reform	Description
#20 – Legislate the eight good governance principles	The principles from the Local Government <i>Good Governance Guide</i> will be legislated and linked to the behaviours in the Code of Conduct.
#21 – Set high-level financial management principles that encourage efficiency and value for money in council service delivery	High-level financial management principles will be established to provide a clear expectation for councils when developing their strategic plans and budgets that focus upon transparency, accountability and sound financial management.
#22 – Establish core capability requirements for elected members (Amended)	Core competency requirements for elected members will be outlined with general managers needing to develop and deliver an induction plan for elected members following each council election. It will also be a requirement for councillors to complete training about their role as a Planning Authority.
#23 – Require councils to publicly report the core capability training that each elected member has completed annually (Amended)	Reporting of training completed by elected members will not be required to be reported publicly, rather general managers will be required to develop induction plans for elected members, with meeting procedures training to be completed prior to the first meeting.
#24 – Establish principles for all council staff that set minimum standards of behaviour	Local government employment principles will be set, aligning with the principles applying to employees under the <i>Tasmanian State Service Act 2000</i> . The consequences for a breach of these minimum staff standards of behaviour would be a matter for each council to determine.
#25 – Prescribe minimum standards for general manager recruitment, contracts, performance management and termination	Minimum standards will be set for general manager recruitment, contracts, performance management and termination. The current power to issue a Ministerial Order on the appointment and performance of general managers will remain.
#26 – Include principles on complaints management in legislation	Stronger provisions around complaints handling by councils will be included in the Act, to improve the independence of internal reviews of complaints.

#27 – Ensure council rating policies consider taxation principles and align with their budget and financial planning documents	The Act will require councils to consider the principles of taxation such as efficiency, simplicity, equity, capacity to pay, benefit, sustainability, cross-border competitiveness and competitive neutrality when determining how to distribute the rating burden. Councils should reflect outcomes of consultation with the community on council budget and financial planning when developing rates and charges policies, as per the overarching Community Engagement Strategy.
#28 – Introduce more flexibility for councils to easily transition from one rating approach to another, to manage rating impacts on ratepayers	The Act will provide improved tools to councils to manage changes in rating approaches and the resulting impacts on individual ratepayers through transitional arrangements.
#29 – Establish an independent rates oversight mechanism (Amended)	Rather than the proposed oversight of rates increases by the Tasmanian Economic Regulator, council Audit Panel chairs will be required to review any proposed rate changes that deviate from a council's Long-Term Financial Plan, and/or any changes to a council's Long-Term Financial Plan. Audit Panel Chairs will continue to be independent of their councils and the Panels must have a majority of independent members.
#30 – Set principles or guidelines for setting fees and charges	The principles or guidelines will promote greater consistency in the approach to setting fees and charges without prescription of the amounts themselves. Fees and charges should be reflective of the cost of the service being delivered as they are not a tax to raise general revenue.
#31 – Provide for a more autonomous and less prescriptive budget process	Councils will have greater flexibility to allocate resources as required. Councils will continue to set the budget and priorities, however general managers will have flexibility to move resources around within the overall budget allocation to achieve priorities.
#32 – Clarify significant business activities	What is a 'significant business activity' will be better defined so that the commercial operations of councils are transparently reported. Councils will be required to publish reports on the operations and performance of significant business activities.
#33 – Require electronic recording of council meetings to be made publicly available	Electronic recording and publication of council meetings will be mandatory to improve public confidence in the integrity, transparency and accountability of council decision-making.

#34 – Simplify what is a conflict of interest	This reform will remove overlap and confusion in the approach to declaring what are currently termed ‘pecuniary’ and ‘non-pecuniary’ interests at council meetings. Legislative provisions will be supported by clear, easy-to-read and understand guidelines to assist councillors.
#35 – Enhance the integrity of council decisions made when exercising statutory powers	Councils will be required to manage perceived conflicts of interest when exercising their statutory powers, for example, when a council is submitting and assessing its own development applications under the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i> .
#36 – Strengthen the information gathering powers of the Director of Local Government	Stronger powers will be provided to the Director of Local Government to require Audit Panels to provide their reports upon request.
#37 – Create a power for the Director of Local Government to require an undertaking from a council as a measure to address compliance issues	The Director of Local Government will have the power to accept an undertaking by a council, councillor or general manager to either correct an act of non-compliance with the Act, or to ensure that there is no recurrence.
#38 – Establish a Monitor/Advisor role (Amended)	To be renamed ‘Advisor’. The Director of Local Government will have the power to require the appointment of an Advisor to enter a council to review its operations, request information from the council administration (and the Audit Panel), provide guidance to elected members and senior staff, and make recommendations to the council. Councils may also decide that an Advisor be engaged as an early intervention to assist a council before issues result in more serious outcomes.
#39 – Establish the power to appoint a Financial Controller (Amended)	To be renamed ‘Financial Supervisor’. Similar to Reform Direction #38, the Director of Local Government may appoint a Financial Supervisor to a council to manage serious, demonstrated financial challenges, similar to powers that exist in New South Wales.
#40 – Continue to conduct formal investigations by the Director of Local Government	The Director of Local Government will continue to have the power to investigate breaches of legislation. Possible outcomes of an investigation will be strengthened to enable the Director to make findings and provide recommendations to the Minister that the council or an individual councillor be dismissed. To support the Director’s investigative role, the Director will be able to appoint appropriately skilled

	and qualified persons to support them, including persons external to the Director's staff.
#41 – Provide for the Minister to dismiss a council or individual councillor	The Minister will have the ability to dismiss a council or councillor on recommendation of the Director. The Minister will retain the power to establish a Board of Inquiry and, in response to findings, recommend the Governor dismiss a council or councillor.
#42 – Create offences for mismanagement and to address poor governance (maladministration)	An offence of maladministration will be created for systemic failures or a major consequence resulting from a single act of impropriety, incompetence or neglect. The offence will be directed to all councillors, individual councillors and general managers but not other senior executive council staff.
#43 – Simplify the complaints framework	This direction will reduce the current overlap between the oversight and regulatory roles of various bodies. The main focus is reducing the overlap in the complaint process between the Director of Local Government and the Integrity Commission to give clarity for complainants, increase efficiency and ensure prompt intervention in serious issues.
#44 – Introduce a local government performance reporting framework	A clearer performance reporting framework will be set to consolidate and make better use of existing data and information relating to councils. Existing key performance indicators will be used as the basis for reporting, but with capacity to have additional key performance indicators over time.
#45 – Require councils to publish a compliance statement in the Annual Report (Amended)	Compliance statements would only be completed for 'material' or 'significant' matters. General managers will be required to sign-off and account for the council's material compliance obligations under the Act and some associated legislation, and report to the community a formal attestation that material compliance obligations have been met.
#46 – Remove prescription around Annual Report	Reforms will reduce the level of prescription about the content of a council's Annual Report with content to be determined by the council through its Community Engagement Strategy.

Part E – Adaptable Councils

Reform	Description
#47 – Introduce provisions that support efficient and high-quality council operations and collaborative shared service opportunities	Legal and administrative barriers to collaboration across councils will be removed, giving greater flexibility for councils to collaborate. This will include clarification about the extent that delegations can be given and exercised and will enable two or more councils to be serviced by one administrative organisation.
#48 – Introduce the option to create Regional Councils (Not proceeding)	This proposal will not proceed. The option to create Regional Councils will not be introduced.
#49 – Create model by-laws for common issues, with streamlined administrative processes	The Act will reduce the administrative process councils must go through to develop and adopt model by-laws, creating greater State-wide consistency. A model by-law will be subject to a rigorous assessment process and, once approved, any council could adopt the model by-law without the need to go through the assessment process again. Councils will simply need to consult with the community on any municipality-specific issues before adopting the by-law.

Part F – Strategic Reviews

Reform	Description
#50 – Strategic reviews of councils	The Local Government Board will be retained and will undertake strategic reviews of local government at the direction of the Minister. At a minimum, the Board will be required to undertake regular reviews of councillor numbers and allowances and ‘State of the Sector’ reviews. It will no longer be able to review the operations of a council, with these being carried out by the Director of Local Government.
#51 – Voluntary amalgamations	Voluntary amalgamations of two or more councils will be able to occur, without the need for a Local Government Board review. Councils will need to develop a business case to explore amalgamations but will no longer require a report from the Local Government Board, which is time and resource intensive.



NORTHERN MIDLANDS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Tasmanian Government Briefing Paper
- MOBILE BLACK SPOT PROJECT -

URGENT ISSUES - PENDING FUNDING
SUBMISSION UNDER *REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY*
PROGRAM

1. Background:

In mid-2020 the Board of the Northern Midlands Business Association (NMBA) noted an increasing amount of feedback across its 600+ member businesses, on the impacts of mobile voice and data black spots across the Northern Midlands region of Tasmania.

2. Consultation and stakeholder commitment

In response, NMBA conducted a consultation project to identify gaps and black spots where mobile phone and data coverage in the Northern Midlands is unacceptable, and to provide reports on where these have created real-world issues for businesses and threats to safety. The consultation over several months, included more than 600 local business owners, as well as emergency services organisations, and community members.

As a result the NMBA mapped these areas, and cross-checked them against the greatest negative impact on economic development, impediments to business, and safety.



The consultation project culminated on 21 January 2021 with an action meeting represented by business, Australian Government, Tasmanian Government, Northern Midlands Council, Telstra management, and the NMBA.

The outcome of that meeting was establishment of a stakeholder action group, with the objective of completing addressing funding, technology, options and actual projects prior to the end of 2021.

Specific participants committing to the Northern Midlands Black Spot action plan were:

- Northern Midlands Business Association Chair, **Ian Goninon**
- Federal Senator **Claire Chandler**
- Senator Chandler's Advisor, **James Billing**
- Federal Senator **Jonathon Duniam**
- Northern Midlands Council Mayor, **Mary Knowles**
- Tasmanian Government Department of State Growth, Daniel Gillie, Chief of Staff to Minister for Infrastructure, Hon. Michael Ferguson
- Independent Tasmanian Legislative Council Member, Hon. Tania Rattray MLC for McIntyre
- Telstra General Manager for Tasmania, **Michael Patterson**
- Telstra Enterprise Executive, **Troy Larkings**
- Telstra Regional Engagement Manager, **Sarah Ebbelaar**
- **Richard Duncan**, Board, NMBA
- **Gordon Williams**, Executive, NMBA

3. Outcomes

Continued work by each of the stakeholders in close cooperation resulted in a final plan for transforming the mobile phone and data capability across the Northern Midlands. The plan includes:

- Defining the priority areas for black-spot projects
- Full costed solution for each priority area
- Planning within Telstra's works schedule for most projects to be undertaken in the 2022 financial year
- Preparation for submission in anticipation of the next round of the Australian Government's Regional Connectivity program



The public announcement of Northern Midlands black spot projects, to an estimated total of \$7million, took place at the NMBA AGM on 27 September 2021, to which Tasmanian Premier, Peter Gutwein, was Guest Speaker.

3. Regional Connectivity Funding Program Submission

The current round of the Australian Government Regional Connectivity funding program, was launched in December 2021, with a shorter than anticipated submission deadline of 27 January 2022.

The four Northern Midlands priority projects were refined from an original list of eight candidate areas by assessing them against factors of economic benefit, health & wellbeing, education, safety, and community impact.

These short-listed high priority projects, costings, and the predominant factors for short-list status, are:

1. Deddington - \$1.65m

- **Key Economic Priority.** Major agricultural and major forestry plantation activity. Lack of mobile coverage is a serious impediment to current and planned projects and innovations such as farm automation, remote operation of pumps and valves via the major Northern Midlands irrigation scheme, micro-weather climate reporting, livestock movements and online sales, and field condition reporting systems.

2. Royal George - \$1.4m

- **Safety and Agricultural Priority.** Although not to the extent of Deddington, there are a large number of smaller, diverse farms across this extended area and major native and lesser plantation forestry industry activity that is, and is increasingly, dependent on communications to remain competitive and continually boost production. As there is no NBN, farmers and the general community will need to fall back on mobile phone and data for the foreseeable future, which is currently intermittent and unreliable.



3. Delmont Exchange - \$720k

- **High impact cost vs benefit on business and community.** The relatively low cost upgrade to the Delmont exchange will dramatically improve the farming, community and business coverage for a wide area and diverse communities. It includes both the new plus two additional existing irrigation schemes that are dependent on mobile data for control systems.

4. Lake Leake community - \$265k

- **Community & Safety Priority.** Extended farming and residential community with virtually no current mobile phone or data access. Impacts safety, working from home, education from home, and access to remote services. High profile media and other lobbying by this community has highlighted their issue.

TOTAL for all 4 priority projects - \$4.035m

Implementation of these projects will result in a dramatic transformation of communications capability to the widest section of business and the general community.

The guidelines of Regional Connectivity program is dedicated to communications infrastructure with a high degree of local business and community benefit, but would not normally be financially viable as part of Telstra' normal works program.

The funding requires shared contributory funding, with broad proportions as follows:

- Australian Government - 50%
- Telstra - 25%
- "Third Parties" - 25%, or just over \$1m

"Third Parties" is typically state and local government. The proportion of this funding varies, with local government contributions of anything up to 10% of total project costs listed above.

4. Current Issues



The Northern Midlands black spot action plan is currently threatened by the unanticipatedly short period in which to secure indications of funding intentions by both the Tasmanian Government and Northern Midlands Council by the new submission deadline of 27 January 2022.

In urgent meetings with Northern Midlands Council, there is currently no budgeted amount for its contribution to this program and with the next Council meeting that could deliberate on this not scheduled until after the 27 January deadline. Council is however, willing to address this issue in the meantime and approval will be sought for a letter of intent from Council which is a requirement of the funding submission.

This would allow the contributing funds to be developed and deliberated as part Council's budgetary process prior to a formal commitment and potential budget allocations as part of its 2022 financial year.

An issue is that Council cannot currently commit to a specific proportion of the 25% or \$1m "Third Party" contribution to the projects in the funding submission.

An additional issue, and the subject of the recommendation in this paper, is the need to similarly obtain a letter of funding intent from the Tasmanian Government for its proportion of the \$1m contribution to the projects.

5. Recommendations

The NMBA, along with the committed stakeholders of the Northern Midlands mobile black spot action group, requests that the Tasmanian Government consider:

1. A letter of intent to provide funding for the "Third Party" contribution to the Northern Midlands submission of up to \$1m depending on the actual contribution of Northern Midlands Council following its budgetary process described above.
2. That the letter of intent be delivered in the earliest possible timeframe in order for the submission to be delivered prior to the early deadline of 27 January 2022.

5. Contact



Additional information and documentation involving the consultation process, methodology, projects, and letters of endorsement from key stakeholders and affected businesses, is available from:

Gordon Williams
Executive
Northern Midlands Business Association
gordon.williams@nmba.asn.au
0402 636 769

04/01/2022

Mr Richard Duncan
Northern Midlands Business Association
13 Smith Street, Longford
Tasmania 7310 Australia

Mr George Crisp & Miss Logan Pentland
Rock House
2021 Royal George Road, Royal George
Avoca, Tasmania 7213 Australia

Re: Northern Midlands Business Association – Mobiles Co-Investment Opportunity

To Whom it May Concern,

As young farmers on a 3500 hectare property just east of Royal George, we feel there is a huge amount of opportunity lost to our business without access to reliable mobile phone service. Currently we are wool and lamb producers with 100 hectares of irrigation where we grow crops including poppies, wheat, barley and canola along with fodder crops. We plan to grow our business to 300+ hectares of irrigation and double production in the short to medium term.

In an age where business relies on communication and technology as necessities, farming businesses without mobile coverage are at a big disadvantage to those with mobile coverage. Currently making a simple phone call to an Agronomist about a pest problem on a valuable crop, a livestock agent about the logistics of carting some lambs to market, phone calls to the harvester and trucking contractors about the time sensitive logistics of carting wheat to the grain store or organising a crew for shearing, problem solving machinery break downs with the supplier has to be done by driving back to the office to get Wi-Fi signal to be able to make or receive these phone calls. These are just some of the daily activities where having mobile signal would enhance our business into being much more efficient.

The farming sector is embracing the information and technology age and we want to be a part of it. The basis of modern farm management, prospect for productivity and improved profitability has technology at its core but with limited means in remote areas it means it is more difficult to be innovative. Farms with mobile coverage can collect and analyse endless amounts of data using mobile connected sensors and are able make important business decisions using this data.

A valuable tool for collecting data is farm management software and mobile apps. There are ever improving apps for livestock and cropping to increase farm productivity and efficiencies. Farm management software is proving to be an important part of our business in that we are better able to record sales and expenditures, livestock treatments and movements, product supply levels, spraying and fertiliser records, task lists as well as general day to day activities which in turn allows for better communication between operators and record keeping. With coverage, the everchanging information would constantly be updated and synced for other/all employees to access at any time, in any location and would create a link between operators, providing them with important information at their fingertips to assist decision-making.

04/01/2022

Other advantages of mobile phone service for our business would include:

- Water and Irrigation management, getting live water levels and crop water requirements
- Improved Livestock health management, feed budgeting, Stock water trough alerts
- Sales of our produce on market software such as Auctions Plus
- Improved use of online accounting software such as Xero or MYOB
- Improved access of Weather sensors assessing frost risk, fire danger, flood levels
- GPS location correction data for improved efficiency with machinery
- Machinery break down and maintenance support from mechanics and dealers

Work Health & Safety

A primary concern on the farm is the welfare of our family members, employees, contractors, and servicemembers. If a worker were to injure themselves or become immobile, it would be difficult to raise an alarm. With many kilometres that divide boundaries and neighbouring properties, it may be hours before another person were to question welfare or search for that person. It is about preventative measures which leads to protection with the aim to reduce farm related death, injury, or illness.

Mental Health

Farmers still face higher rates of suicide with one death every 10 days in Australia according to an Australian-first study of farmer suicide rates based on 10 years of national coronial data. The key risk factors to farmers are the pressures of volatile weather conditions, unpredictable circumstances, finance, relationship break downs, isolation, and loneliness as well as underlying depression, and the culture around not reaching out for help from medical professionals. While research often focuses on farmer owner-operator suicide, farm labourers account for a significant percentage of farmer suicides. Any ability to freely communicate with the outside world and feel direct support at any time would make a dramatic difference to one's mental health, particularly on a day-to-day basis. Or otherwise, should a person wish to reach out, it may be the difference that prevents a farmer from becoming a statistic.

Childhood

Our son, Harry, is 15 months old. We regularly consider his pathway into early learning and with the Avoca school recently shutting down it is a major concern for us both. The best investment for a child's future academics and health is in the lessons available to them in the first five years of life. With the rise of online and remote learning practices, children raised in the areas for desired mobile coverage will benefit enormously from having accessibility to improved services for technology as their foundation to learning and will become heavily reliant to continue learning at home as they transition into primary and secondary education, and later tertiary studies. As adults, it is our responsibility to understand the importance of early childhood development and provide tools to support it; sufficient phone service as the basis to all related technologies and consider what more we can do. This is a positive step forward that will transform lives for generations to come.

We support the Mobiles Co-Investment Opportunity with confidence that it will be the best investment for our future life outcomes.

Your sincerely,

George S Crisp

Logan AC Pentland

Crisp Family Trust

Lewis Hill
2239 Royal George Road
Avoca TAS 7213

Phone 63842226 0438570241

To Whom it May Concern

The Royal George area is situated in the St Pauls Valley which extends more than 30 km east of Avoca. The valley is fairly isolated from the main service centres being about 40 minutes to Campbell Town and 80 minutes to Launceston. The road through to Cranbrook on the east coast is popular with people travelling to the coast as well as people commuting to work.

Mobile phone service in the area is poor to non existent due to the poor location of a tower in Avoca which services very little of the area. The lack of mobile coverage is a major issue for businesses and residents of the area for safety reasons, business efficiencies and general communications.

Agriculture and forestry are the main industries in the area with both being significant employers.

Significant investment in irrigation infrastructure in recent years has resulted in more intensive land use with increased presence of contractors and service providers being involved and requiring good communications.

It is extremely frustrating to have to return to the homestead on a large broadacre property to make phone calls or to wait for someone to call back.

There are also opportunities to utilize new technologies in water and irrigation control and monitoring in particular. This could save a lot of time starting and stopping irrigators, monitoring water meters etc.

Safety is a big issue due to the isolated nature of the area which could be significantly improved with mobile service.

In summary the provision of a mobile service to this area as proposed in the Blackspots funding application would make a huge difference to the people and businesses in the St Pauls Valley.

Yours sincerely
Alistair Crisp

From the office of the Mayor



16 September 2021

Northern Midlands Business Association
Attention: Gordon Williams

Via email only: gordon.williams@nmba.asn.au

Dear Gordon

MOBILE BLACKSPOT FUNDING

Thank you for your request for a letter of support toward mobile blackspot funding in the Northern Midlands municipality.

The Northern Midlands covers a large area with some very remote locations. Council regularly receives feedback through our local district committees and other community members about poor mobile telephone coverage in parts of our municipality. This is a concern, particularly given the increased reliance on mobile telephones to communicate, operate businesses, and as a means to ensure people are safe when living, working or travelling in remote parts of our municipality.

The Northern Midlands Council supports the work of the Northern Midlands Business Association Mobile Blackspot Working Committee and the proposed improvements to mobile telephone coverage in this municipality.

Yours sincerely

Mary Knowles OAM
MAYOR

Macquarie Settlement Pipeline Partnership

Water creates Sustainable Communities

20/12/2021

To Whom It May Concern

Macquarie Settlement Pipeline Partnership (MSPP) is a Partnership made up of some 14 partners who own and control 19 properties in the Macquarie Settlement area.

Macquarie Settlement is an area of land on the Macquarie River Situated between Cressy and Campbell Town which was split up in the 1940,s as Soldier Settlement blocks.

As time has progressed so has the area and irrigation has grown throughout the region and this is what brought about the formation of MSPP.

MSPP is the biggest privately owned irrigation partnership in Tasmania sourcing its water from Hydro Tasmania some 17 Kilometres away.

The Irrigation scheme was commissioned in early 2009 at a cost to partners of 5.9 Million.

At Present the partners are investing in an expansion of the system to deliver water to various downstream locations to do away with transmission losses in the river system and upgrade the pumps at Poatina Reregulation Pond where we source our water from with the ability to expand the capacity by an extra 30 %.

The cost of the current expansion is around 2.6 Million.

This scheme is 100 % privately owned and operated with no Government assistance.

Like all things as we have grown so has technology and this brings us to our point.

We Need Good Phone Service Strength.

Our region has marginal phone strength and in some parts we have no service at all.

Irrigation is relying more and more on phone service technology to start and stop irrigators as well as monitor water usage, and there are some people in the area that can't make a phone call from their own home yet alone try and run and start irrigators from their phone.

The farmers in the area a very diversified growing a large range of crops from wine grapes, milking cows,lamb,beef,wool,opium poppies and a sizeable quantity of the states Peas, Potatoes, Broccoli and other vegetables

We believe that we have invested heavily in bringing water into a region to grow and deliver food in line with government growth forecasts and a good telecommunications system would make life the same for us as other people have 365 days a year.

Rob Bayles

Chairman 0418 137 667

Re: Northern Midlands Business Association – Mobiles Co-Investment Opportunity

To whom it my concern

The mobile phone service in the Royal George area is poor. The advantages of having of good phone service would be many. There are many options that need good phone services in Agricultural technology eg. starting irrigation, some GPS can use mobile service, electric fence monitoring via sms. I and many other farmers work by themselves, and accidents happen. Mobile phone service would allow emergency services to be contacted easily. Alerts for floods, fires, and restrictions from the river when irrigating would be extremely beneficial. To be able to communicate when standing next to a machine, troubleshooting problems would be extremely valuable. For example, I had a problem with a hard hose irrigator and three trips home to the phone added up to half a day.

Yours Sincerely

Damian Gee
63842160



1st Jan 2022

ORMLEY TRUST

ABN 20 926 503 501

"ORMLEY" 3635 Esk Main Road

FINGAL TAS 7214

Mob: (Jay) 0419 394 572 (Michelle) 0408 742 373

To Whom It May Concern,

As one of the large farmers in the Fingal and Royal George Valley's, we find it increasingly frustrating with the poor phone service in the Royal George area. These concerns are shared by other farmers and residents in the area.

We employ seven full time staff members that work across the properties and one that lives at Royal George full time with his family. The current lack of good phone service is a serious issue for all staff members.

It is a major safety issue to have employees working by themselves with no means of contacting anyone if they find themselves in difficulty.

The lack of service is an issue for contractors where good communication is required for planning major farming operations such as harvesting as well as organising truck drivers and for monitoring purposes.

Irrigation systems are unable to be controlled by management to monitor water usage and start and stop the systems. This is paramount for contracted crops that our business is involved in growing such as potatoes and poppies that are not only highly sensitive crops but also hold a high monetary return value at stake.

There are other agricultural technologies, opportunities, and efficiencies that our business as well as others in the area are missing out on, costing us money and time that could be solved with mobile phone service. Just a few of these include the monitoring of stock waters and security cameras for property safety, not to mention the convenience for the residents of the area.

Regards,

Jamie and Michelle Loane

Owners/Managers Ormley



Growing the future

30 Patrick Street, Hobart 7000
Tel: (03) 6165 4074
Email: admin@pft.tas.gov.au
treealliance.com.au

Free Helpline 1300 661 009

23 December 2021

Mr. Richard Duncan
c/- Northern Midlands Business Association

Inquiries: Stephen Clarke
Phone: 0409 959 021
Email:
stephen.clarke@pft.tas.gov.au
Our Ref: 0246-11
Your Ref:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TO THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AREA

Dear Richard,

Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) supports the work of the Northern Midlands Business Association – Mobile Black Spot Sub-Committee to improve mobile coverage in and around the Northern Midlands region.

Mobile coverage is important from a health and safety perspective particularly when working in forests and on farms. These sometimes hazardous occupations, coupled with their relatively remote locations, mean that being able to contact emergency services without delay in the event of a workplace accident is very important and this requires extensive and reliable mobile coverage. Timely notification to emergency services of forest fires, floods and other natural disasters also requires reliable coverage.

Forestry and farming are becoming increasingly reliant on smart technologies using mobile apps and these also rely on network connectivity. It is not uncommon to have forests and farms using networks of sensors, cameras and computer applications providing and accessing real time digital information. In that regard PFT is currently developing our own TreeMapper app where farm foresters will be able to use a range of e-tools to better manage their farm forestry activities. Without adequate mobile coverage, the full functionality of these tools will not be possible leading to reduced outcomes for farm foresters.

PFT believe that improvements in the mobile coverage, both in extent and reliability, through the Northern Midlands are important and will lead to improved economic and general societal outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Clarke
A/CEO Private Forests Tasmania

TANIA RATTRAY MLC
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR McINTYRE

SCOTTSDALE

16 King Street
SCOTTSDALE TASMANIA 7260
Ph: (03) 6350 5000
Fax: (03) 6350 5002
Mobile: 0427 523 412
Email: tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au

HOBART

Parliament House
HOBART TASMANIA 7000
Ph: (03) 6212 2350
Fax: (03) 6231 1849



Legislative Council

13th October 2021

To whom it may concern

LETTER OF SUPPORT
NORTHERN MIDLANDS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

I would like to offer my full support to the Northern Midlands Business Association (NMBA) in their application for telecommunications upgrade to compliment the recently announced Cressy upgrade. The NMBA is to be congratulated on their pro-active leadership as they endeavour to improve the telecommunications infrastructure that supports the region and their communities.

The lack of coverage for existing mobile and internet services in the Northern Midlands area is certainly a major concern significant impediment particularly in the areas of health, safety and business. I am aware in the area of health without reliable connectivity this is presenting challenges to health professionals that are required to make home visits to clients. The recording of medical information at the point of service delivery is vital to ensuring accurate information is documented in the applicable systems for each service provided. People working in rural situations often work alone and to have access to a reliable network is imperative to ensuring connection to emergency services should they be required.

The proposed upgrades to telecommunications infrastructure will maximise economic and social opportunities in regional, rural and remote Australian communities and this Tasmanian community is well placed to achieve these outcomes with access to reliable telecommunications services. The NMBA representing the business and wider community with its progressive direction focusing on economic and safety benefits with improved mobile coverage is to be commended for its advocacy in this important area as society becomes ever more reliant on technology.

In my role as an elected representative for this area in the Tasmanian Parliament I continually receive contact from locals and visitors to the region expressing their frustration of the inadequacies of the current services due to the lack of consistent connectivity for mobile and access to cost effective internet connection. These deficient services continue to be unacceptable and I support the view of the majority that access to reliable telecommunications is considered to be essential for the safety and welfare of our regional, rural and those living remotely in Tasmania.

I offer my full support to the NMBA in their commitment to improve the connectivity of this area of Tasmania that is deserving of the opportunities that will be delivered through the success of this application.

Yours sincerely


Tania Rattray MLC



Mr. Richard Duncan
c/- Northern Midlands Business Association

16 June 2021

Dear Richard,

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) supports the work of the Northern Midlands Business Association – Mobile Black Spot Working Committee and endorses the efforts of the committee to work with all stakeholders and service providers to improve mobile coverage in and around the Northern Midlands region. We also note the concerns of the committee that in some areas of the region coverage is in place but capacity is lacking and these should not be considered mutually exclusive issues.

The concerns of the TFGA in relation to this include:

1. A community/societal expectation that mobile coverage is now ubiquitous, like the devices we use to access the network. The fact that coverage is not always available, as is the case in areas of the Northern Midlands, can result in disadvantage.
2. Mobile coverage is important from a health and safety perspective. Accidents and injuries, as unfortunate as they are, occur on farms and being able to contact emergency services without delay is vital and that requires comprehensive mobile coverage.
3. Advising emergency services of fires, floods, car accidents, stock on road, etc. requires comprehensive mobile coverage.
4. Agriculture and farming are increasingly computer and telecommunications dependent. It is no longer uncommon to have farms utilising networks of remote sensors and cameras (and other networked devices) to provide realtime information and remote management/control capabilities. Without comprehensive mobile coverage, leveraging these productivity tools on farms is not possible and that can result in increased costs and reduced outcomes.

We now expect mobile coverage will be available, in much the same way we have an expectation of the supply of water, electricity or other essential services. We can tolerate outages, preferably infrequently, but we are much less tolerant of a complete failure in the delivery of the service. The TFGA believes that improvements in the mobile coverage and capacity in and around the Northern Midlands region is essential.

Yours sincerely,

John McKew
Chief Executive Officer

ACN 009 477 810
ABN 51 009 477 810

P: (03) 6332 1800
W: www.tfga.com.au

A: PO Box 193
56a Charles Street
Launceston TAS 7250

From the office of the Mayor



Northern Midlands Business Association
13 Smith Street
LONGFORD TAS 7301

Via email: Gordon.williams@nmba.as.au

To Whom It May Concern

The Northern Midlands Council fully supports the initiative of the Northern Midlands Business Association (NMBA) in its endeavours to improve the telecommunications infrastructure to the widest section of the business and general community, by way of a funding application to the *Australian Government Connectivity Program*.

The benefits of improved communication to the Northern Midlands municipality extend beyond maximising economic and social opportunities, including:

Empowering liveability through:

- Improved connectivity and information sharing
- Creation of new industry (ability to work remotely or work from home)
- Achievement of a work life balance; and
- Improved access to medical services such as telehealth for vulnerable people.
- Renewal of sporting associations and community organisations through improved connectivity

Expanded Educational opportunities:

- Improved access to online learning and resources
- Enhanced collaboration for discovery, research, and growth; and
- Retention of youth within the community.

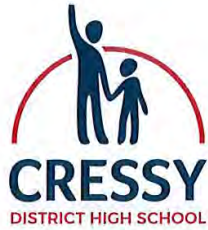
The financial request from Northern Midlands Council is significant and the importance of the projects is not lost on Council.

Subsequently, I wish to confirm that Council will consider the request for funding support at it's meeting on the 31 January 2022, and it is acknowledged that the contribution sought may be up to 10% of a total project cost of \$4.035m.

We wish NMBA every success with it's funding application.

Yours sincerely

Mary Knowles
Mayor



Reach upward

CRESSY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Main Street Cressy TAS 7302

T (03) 6397 6281 **F** (03) 6397 6525

E Cressy.District.High@education.tas.gov.au

cressydistricthigh.education.tas.edu.au



18 August 2021

To whom it may concern

The Cressy school community is impacted greatly by the poor mobile service in this area. In a modern world mobile devices are an integral part of daily life for the vast majority of people including those in our district.

The inconsistency of the service is a major concern. Sometimes it will work while at other times it does not. It can operate successfully in one location but not at another one.

From a school perspective the current coverage causes difficulties including the following:

1. Tas covid app and not being able to register electronically.
2. Communicating with parents via the school app.
3. Personal contact with parents to support student learning.
4. Emergencies and being able to get information to families. This raises safety concerns. For example, in a flood situation where the flood gates at Longford are being shut it is imperative that we are able to contact parents to collect students to ensure they arrive home safely.

The Cressy School Association supports any upgrade to the towers which currently service our area.

Laurretta Atley
School Association Chairperson



Mr. Richard Duncan
c/- Northern Midlands Business Association

16 June 2021

Dear Richard,

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) supports the work of the Northern Midlands Business Association – Mobile Black Spot Working Committee and endorses the efforts of the committee to work with all stakeholders and service providers to improve mobile coverage in and around the Northern Midlands region. We also note the concerns of the committee that in some areas of the region coverage is in place but capacity is lacking and these should not be considered mutually exclusive issues.

The concerns of the TFGA in relation to this include:

1. A community/societal expectation that mobile coverage is now ubiquitous, like the devices we use to access the network. The fact that coverage is not always available, as is the case in areas of the Northern Midlands, can result in disadvantage.
2. Mobile coverage is important from a health and safety perspective. Accidents and injuries, as unfortunate as they are, occur on farms and being able to contact emergency services without delay is vital and that requires comprehensive mobile coverage.
3. Advising emergency services of fires, floods, car accidents, stock on road, etc. requires comprehensive mobile coverage.
4. Agriculture and farming are increasingly computer and telecommunications dependent. It is no longer uncommon to have farms utilising networks of remote sensors and cameras (and other networked devices) to provide realtime information and remote management/control capabilities. Without comprehensive mobile coverage, leveraging these productivity tools on farms is not possible and that can result in increased costs and reduced outcomes.

We now expect mobile coverage will be available, in much the same way we have an expectation of the supply of water, electricity or other essential services. We can tolerate outages, preferably infrequently, but we are much less tolerant of a complete failure in the delivery of the service. The TFGA believes that improvements in the mobile coverage and capacity in and around the Northern Midlands region is essential.

Yours sincerely,

John McKew
Chief Executive Officer

ACN 009 477 810
ABN 51 009 477 810

P: (03) 6332 1800
W: www.tfga.com.au

A: PO Box 193
56a Charles Street
Launceston TAS 7250

From: [Ian and San](#)
To: [Cr Janet Lambert](#)
Subject: Telstra mobile communication reception in the Kalangadoo, Lake Leake area
Date: Monday, 17 January 2022 10:51:42 PM

Dear Councillor Lambert,

As a long term resident of the Kalangadoo area I am voicing my frustration of the poor mobile voice and data communications in our area.

The area is serviced by a single mobile tower situated above and to the east of the Lake Leake. The tower has a fixed power supply to Tasnetworks so energy supply should not be a problem.

At best I can get 2 to 3 bars signal strength on my hand held device. At most times voice comms is OK however data is extremely slow to non existent. When moving throughout Kalangadoo the voice comms and data is non existent in some areas.

To fix our data problem I bought a Telstra 4GX advanced III mobile router to connect to the Telstra network. The signal strength was too weak for the unit to operate on its own so a Yagi fixed antenna was installed. Signal strength was improved but data transfer was still very slow. As per the test results below

Sunday, 7 February 2021
9:08 AM

Your speed test results

1.8Mbps

DOWNLOAD SPEED

Higher speeds give you a better experience for things like video streaming or internet browsing.

0.3Mbps

UPLOAD SPEED

I have now installed an NBN Satellite service to alleviate the above problems.

The above coverage problems was recently confirmed by Michael Patterson, the General Manager of Telstra Country Wide in Tasmania during a visit to the Lake Leake area after a report on the area being raised on the ABC Radio Mornings Show hosted by Leon Compton. So the problem has been confirmed by Telstra. As yet no action.

A huge area of concern and safety are the black spot areas on the Lake Leake Highway Between the Tasman Hwy and Campbell Town. The coverage in some limited areas is OK, However the greater percentage of the highway has no coverage at all. The road is now a very busy connector between the Midlands to the East Coast with transport, Local traffic and tourists. Road accidents have occurred with victims having difficulty contacting emergency services from black spot areas.

Although not being a technician, surely, if a small cell system located in the Kalangadoo area and in places on the highway were to be installed at least there would be a huge improvement in our

area for mobile coverage.

There is TELSTRA Infrastructure with Satellite feeding into the small landline on Lake View Road, Kalangadoo. Could a small cell mobile system be located there to improve coverage in Kalangadoo?

The safety and well being of local residents, some who are in the older age bracket should be looked at when considered the above.

Councillor, I hope the above will enlighten you to the mobile telecommunication problems residents of our area have.

Regards

Ian Taylor
Kalangadoo Road Lake Leake

bridgeops@hotmail.com

From: [Karen](#)
To: [Cr Janet Lambert](#)
Subject: Mobile Phone Coverage at Lake Leake
Date: Tuesday, 18 January 2022 4:48:24 PM

Good afternoon Councillor Lambert

The reason for my email to you today is to voice my concerns, at our current very unreliable mobile phone coverage in and along the Lake Leake highway, there are just so many areas where service is just no existent. I personally live at Kalangadoo and travel the Lake Leake highway more than most, and have come across three different car accident where mobile coverage could have made a bad situation a lot more easier to deal with.

Lake Leake Highway has become a very busy highway over the last few years and is a major connector road to the East Coast. The various accidents that I have come across were not of a serious life threatening scenario, but I feel that is a very real possibility given the traffic flow these days.

Councillor, the reason for this email is very simple, can you please investigate and make contact with Telstra and see what improvements to our tower or additional relay beacons could possibly be installed to fix this issue.

I thank you for your service in our area and should you wish to discuss this further please feel free to contact me via return email.

Kind Regards

Michael James Byrne

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

A.J. & D.A. CAMERON

'Marathon'

1503 Deddington Road, Deddington, Tasmania 7212

Phone: +61 03 6398 6264 Diana Mob: 0438 986 264 Email: marathon.nile@gmail.com

21st January, 2022

Northern Midlands Business Association
13 Smith Street
LONGFORD TAS 7301

Via email: Gordon.williams@nmba.as.au

To Whom It May Concern

Diana Cameron of 1503 Deddington Road, Deddington fully supports the initiative of the Northern Midlands Business Association (NMBA) in its endeavours to improve the telecommunications infrastructure to the widest section of the business and general community, by way of a funding application to the *Australian Government Connectivity Program*.

I live on a farm with no mobile service. For safety reasons, having mobile service would be a huge gain. Once I leave the house, there is sporadic emergency call zone, but in other areas there is nothing to help in an emergency.

When firefighters were fighting a fire at the back of our property a few years ago, they relied on mobile service. Miscommunication meant that a fire flared up and got away which meant a lot more damage to forest, risk and time involved for the fire fighters.

Having mobile service would make everyday expectations of business of a mobile service for banking and interactions with business and government much easier.

King regards



Diana Cameron

7 Glover Road
Wandale 4213

Dear Mary

I would like to support your endeavour to improve the Mobile phone service in the Deddington & Blessington area.

I am a semi-retired 53 year old farmer working 3-4 days a week on our 650 acre property where I run 60 breeding cows situated 1-8 Kilometers English Town road.

I have no mobile phone service and find this worrying and inconvenient.

Yours sincerely

Rod. Davey

NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL					
File No.					
Property					
Attachments					
REC'D 24 JAN 2022					
GM					
P&DM			PLN		
CSM			BLD		
WM			MYR		
HR			EA		
HLT					



17 December 2021

Northern Midlands Council
PO Box 156
LONGFORD TAS 7301
council@nmc.tas.gov.au

NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL					
File No.					
Property					
Attachments					
REC'D 04 JAN 2022					
GM	I	A	PLN	I	A
P&DM			BLD		
CSM			MYR		
WM			EA		
HR					
HLT					

To the Mayor, Councillors and CEO (please distribute accordingly)

As the national voice of local government, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) advocates on behalf of Australia's 537 councils for funding and policy outcomes that support local governments to deliver better results for their communities.

Each year we hold a National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra where councils from around our nation discuss current and emerging challenges and opportunities and advocate to the Federal Government on critical issues facing our sector.

The motions passed at our NGA inform ALGA's strategic direction and national advocacy objectives. We listen to what you tell us, and take your message to Ministers, MPs and decision-makers in Canberra and around the country through Ministerial meetings, forums, budget submissions, and advocacy campaigns.

Next year's NGA will be held in Canberra from 19-22 June and will be an opportunity for us to clearly set and articulate our agenda to a new or returning Federal Government.

The theme for this event will be *Partners in Progress*, focusing on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Government and local governments, can tackle the immediate challenges facing communities and help us confidently prepare for the future.

We are now calling for motions for next year's NGA, and I would encourage you to consider whether there is a strategic issue of national importance that your council can bring to this event.

We have prepared the attached discussion paper which covers some of the critical national policy areas that our sector needs to consider now and into the future and will help you prepare your motion.

To assist us, please ensure that your motions meet the following criteria:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally;
2. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA;
3. Complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association;
4. Be from a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association;

5. Propose a clear action and outcome; and
6. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

All motions should have a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and the endorsement of your council. Motions can be lodged online at alga.asn.au until 11:59pm on Friday 25 March 2022.

I've also attached a copy of ALGA's 2022 Federal Election Priorities.

The 17 national priorities outlined in this document have been informed by motions passed at last year's NGA, and unanimously endorsed by ALGA's Board in conjunction with our member state and territory local government associations.

They cover our key priority portfolios of economic recovery, transport, and community infrastructure, building resilience, circular economy and intergovernmental relations, and outline what local government could achieve, if formally recognised and adequately funded.

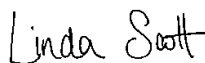
They have been assessed by independent economists, and if implemented by the next Federal Government they would create at least 42,975 new jobs and add \$6.39 billion per annum to Australia's GDP.

In the lead up to next year's election, ALGA and your state and territory local government associations will be calling on all parties and candidates to support these national priorities, empowering local government to play a meaningful role in Australia's recovery.

Your council can support this national campaign by endorsing ALGA's priority asks, identifying local projects and programs that could be delivered with better funding partnerships, writing to local members and candidates, and highlighting the value strong funding partnerships can deliver for your local community.

Will you join ALGA at the 2022 National General Assembly in Canberra from 19-22 June, and will you work with us to advocate for these key national priorities and help ensure no community is left behind in Australia's COVID-19 recovery?

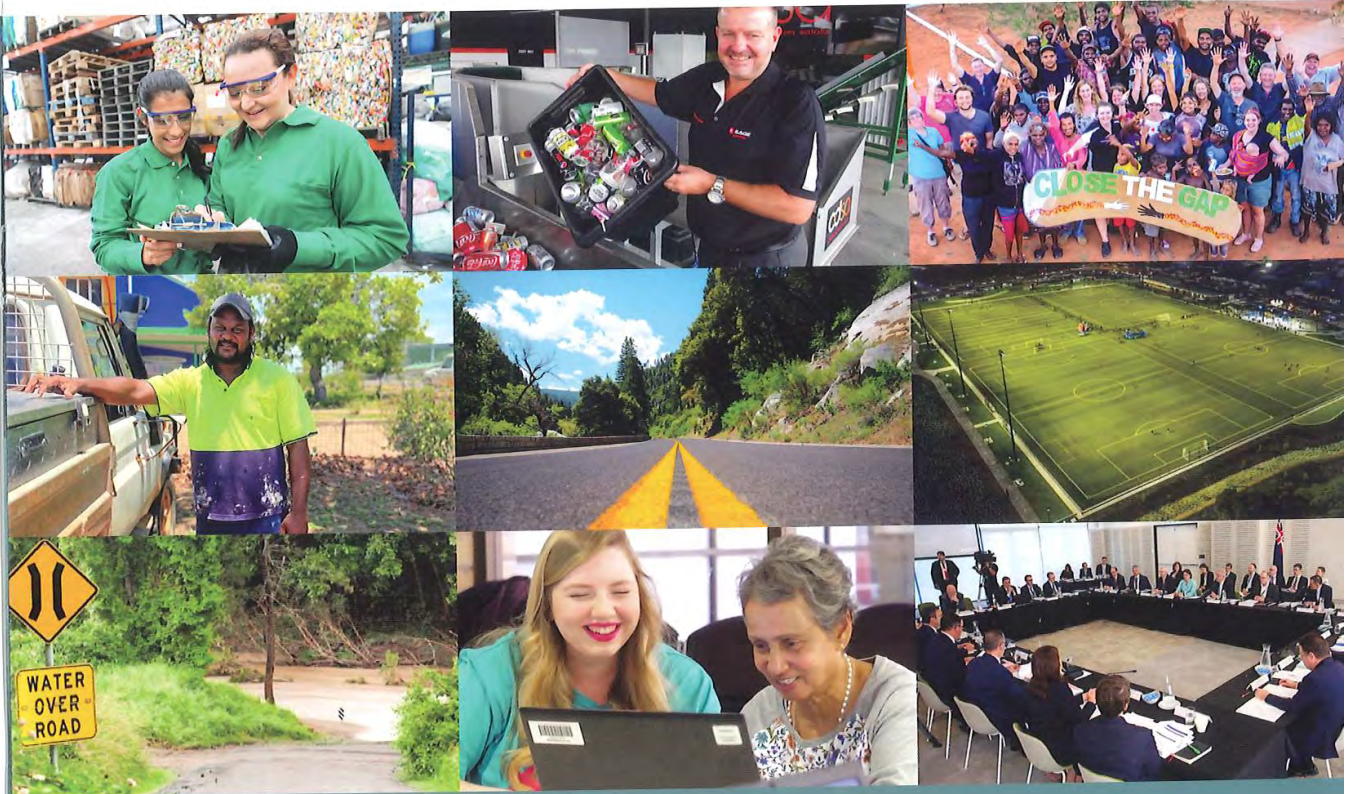
Any administrative inquiries can be directed to ALGA by calling 02 6122 9400.



Cr Linda Scott
ALGA President



AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION



**DON'T LEAVE LOCAL
COMMUNITIES BEHIND!**

Federal Election Priorities

Successfully delivering for Greater Sydney communities



Rouse Road footbridge (\$22 million), Blacktown City Council, NSW

Blacktown City Council Mayor Tony Bleasdale said the opening of the Rouse Road Bridge in 2019 - partially funded through the Commonwealth's Bridges Renewal Programme - solved a number of significant problems and that the bridge was a major access point to the Tallawong Metro station and Rouse Hill Anglican College.

"This area is experiencing rapid growth and the old causeway was an enormous traffic bottleneck and a serious safety concern for pedestrians and motorists alike during times of heavy rain," Cr Bleasdale said.

"Blacktown City Council had the bridge planned for some time, but needed to wait for available funding. The Australian Government grant enabled the work to be fast-tracked."

Authorised by Matt Pinnegar Chief Executive Officer of ALGA.

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Intergovernmental Relations

Introduction: Linda Scott, ALGA President

As our nation faces social and economic challenges unseen in peace-time Australia, Australians need their decision-makers working together.

They want, expect, and need pragmatic policy making that delivers a locally led recovery from COVID-19, and a focus on opportunity rather than austerity from this economic crisis.

In total (including direct and flow-on impacts), the funding priorities we've proposed in this document are estimated to contribute at least \$6.39 billion per annum on average to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as well as support an average of 42,975 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs per annum across Australia over a four-year period.

By working with Australian councils – the level of government closest to its community – a future Federal Government can put steps in place to guarantee no local community is left behind as we recover from COVID-19.

DON'T LEAVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES BEHIND!

The COVID-19 pandemic that shook Australia in March 2020 has imposed new physical, social, and economic realities in Australia.

Occurring almost simultaneously with the Black Summer fires, floods, and drought, the pandemic helped trigger Australia's first recession in nearly 30 years.

It has led to unprecedented Commonwealth, state and local government economic support for those most affected by the economic and social impacts, but the cumulative shocks to our system – exacerbated by the Delta variant and a mammoth vaccination task – have presented all governments with significant financial challenges, which local governments are unable to face without the support of the Commonwealth.

Businesses closed their doors and laid off staff, families lost income, and individuals were left isolated from friends and loved ones.

Unwelcome as the pandemic was, it has also revealed the adaptability, innovation, and resilience of our nation and its citizens.

Through stay-at-home orders in place, our homes became our offices, schools, and lecture halls, and many have faced unemployment or uncertainty about how to pay the rent or support our families.

Within days of the announcement of lockdowns and health restrictions, we took difficult but necessary steps to protect our communities from the risks of infection – educating people about the need for social distancing and providing masks and food for communities.

We used our own limited funding to provide financial support to local small businesses directed to close because of COVID-19 restrictions, and organised vouchers for aged and other vulnerable locals to redeem at participating local cafes and restaurants struggling to stay in business.

We supported our communities to innovate, quickly adapting in a way only local governments can.



Councillor Linda Scott
President of the Australian Local Government Association

As communities and businesses “pivoted”, we saw the adaptability that characterises local government.

Recognising that broad economic stimulus and job-creation programs were the keys to community recovery, local governments accelerated local employment-generating programs.

We partnered with other governments to roll out targeted capital works to improve road safety, rejuvenate or upgrade local community assets, and enhance our local parks, footpaths and community open spaces.

Forced to contemplate what the future might look like post-COVID, many Australians believe our communities should be restored not to what they were, but to what they could be.

A successful national recovery is a recovery that will be made up of thousands of smaller locally driven recoveries led by local governments in partnership with funding partners: private, philanthropic, state, territory and federal.

To sustain such a recovery and ensure it is felt across all communities regardless of size or location, we need a stronger, more equal partnership between governments. Our local communities need more investment, and they need to have a greater say in decision-making about their futures.

All spheres of government, elected and administrative, must work together to ensure that economic recovery post-COVID does not falter.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a better future: one that bolsters community connection, wellbeing and resilience.

This document lays out a series of offers to the next incoming government, alongside a set of asks.

They build upon local government’s strengths and its proven track record of working in partnership to deliver for Australian communities and national productivity.

The policies contained in these election priorities have been assessed by independent economists, who were engaged to model the contribution to the Australian economy from each priority investment as well as articulate the socio-economic benefits these programs can be expected to deliver.

They are exactly what is needed to ensure local communities of all sizes are in a strong position to drive the inclusive recovery all Australians want and that leaves no community behind.

Local government can lead and deliver the strong community-focused recovery from COVID-19 by:

- leading local economic growth;
- delivering stimulus projects that generate local jobs, support local businesses and boost productivity;
- enabling economic growth through the development of a circular economy;
- building community resilience to disasters and climate change; and
- facilitating community wellbeing.

	Local Government Offer to the Australian Government	Local Government Ask of the Australian Government
Economic Recovery	To partner with the Federal Government to create more jobs, while addressing the nation's skills shortage through training and upskilling Australian workers.	To commit to a progressive increase in Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue (at least \$4.5 billion per year), and an initial injection of additional Financial Assistance Grants funding.
Transport and Community Infrastructure	To partner with the Federal Government to create infrastructure that will improve the safety, liveability and productivity of our communities, while contributing to Australia's economic recovery.	To invest \$500 million per year for four years extending the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, while increasing roads funding and improving digital connectivity in our regions. To invest in an innovative housing partnerships of \$200m over four years to support affordable housing in communities.
Building Resilience	To partner with the Federal Government to grow the resilience in our communities, mitigate against the impacts of future disaster events, while focussing on local opportunities to reduce our carbon emissions and to Close the Gap between Indigenous Australians and the nation.	To provide \$200 million per year for four years for a targeted disaster mitigation program, while establishing a \$200 million Local Government Climate Partnership Program and supporting all councils to implement Closing the Gap targets with \$100 million per annum over four years.
Circular Economy	To identify and implement opportunities to reduce waste sent to landfill and support the development of a circular economy that will deliver environmental and economic benefits for all our communities.	To provide \$100 million per year for four years to fund local government circular innovation projects, and support our communities to reuse wherever possible.
Inter-governmental Relations	To provide a local, place based community perspective to intergovernmental deliberations to ensure that decisions are responsive to local needs and have regard to the great diversity between communities.	To reinstate local government representation to the primary intergovernmental forum in Australia, the National Cabinet, and ensure local government's ongoing voting membership of other Ministerial forums.

Economic Recovery

Government responses to COVID-19 over the past two years have been overwhelmingly concentrated on averting a health and economic crisis. 2022 and the years beyond are set to be dominated by discussions and decisions around economic recovery.

New policies and strategies will be required to ensure all Australians can be employed in secure, meaningful, and sustainable jobs.

With our footprint across the nation and a workforce that encompasses 394 occupations, local governments provide an ideal catalyst for growing jobs.

We are also the ideal vehicle for co-investment in new job-creation initiatives.

Increased federal funding and investment will help councils roll out new local economic stimulus projects and give us the ability to cut the red tape that might potentially be slowing or blocking other investments planned for communities across Australia.

We would be able to create more jobs, including traineeships and apprenticeships, to address an emerging skills gaps in local government that threatens to slow decentralisation efforts aimed at rejuvenating regional and rural Australia.

Longer term certainty with Federal funding will enable Council's to invest in workforce planning and training.

In many communities, we are proud to be a major employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Local governments are willing to support opportunities for skill training, new jobs, and business opportunities for indigenous people and their communities to help close the gap on indigenous disadvantage.

An added benefit of increased federal funding to local government is that it will help achieve equitable levels of services across all parts of Australia, build community resilience and wellbeing, and improve productivity-generating infrastructure.

Don't leave our regional communities behind



Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants support equitable service levels for all Australians and ensure that no community is left behind.

These grants are particularly vital in many regional communities, but over the past twenty years they have significantly declined as a share of total Commonwealth taxation revenue.

North Burnett Regional Council Mayor Rachel Chambers, pictured, said a number of factors including amalgamation, changes to Financial

Assistance Grants, and increasing depreciation expenses placed the region in a predicament, and could cost local jobs in her community.

"Our back is against the wall. We're running out of money, we're running out of options to save jobs, and we're running out of time," she said. "We have to use depreciation as an expense so our expenses have increased and that has been an issue. Then we have had budget cutbacks by the state and federal governments over the years."

Economic Recovery

Failure to secure future federal funding creates the real risk of communities being disproportionately impacted in this period of economic recovery.

Councils are also grappling with the budget repair challenges that are facing state and federal treasuries.

Funding certainty is critical to the short and long-term planning of councils, particularly in rural and regional areas where there is a greater reliance on external funding.

We are seeking:

1: An initial injection of Financial Assistance Grants to local government worth \$1.3 billion to support communities and jobs and also resolve the current practice of bringing forward two quarterly Financial Assistance Grant payments each year.

If funded:

Jobs created: 13,213

Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$b): \$1.928

2: A commitment to return Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue - an additional (\$b) 1.598 per year - via a phased approach to be agreed with the Government.

If funded:

Jobs created: 16,242

Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$b): \$2.370

Local Government Offer to the Australian Government	Local Government Ask of the Australian Government
To partner with the Federal Government to create more jobs, while addressing the nation's skills shortage through training and upskilling Australian workers.	To commit to a progressive increase in Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue (at least \$4.5 billion per year), and an initial injection of additional Financial Assistance Grants funding.

Better Transport and Community Infrastructure

Well-targeted infrastructure investment generates lasting economic, social and environmental benefits.

It lowers costs for business and government and better connects workers to their jobs. It increases community resilience and ensures we as a nation are protected against the extreme weather events associated with global warming.

We are responsible for 33 percent of Australia's public infrastructure, including 75 percent of the country's roads by length. Much of this infrastructure is ageing and needs renewing or replacing so it meets community and industry needs.

Roads represent 39 percent of the total local government infrastructure with a total replacement cost of \$204 billion. Bridges represent four percent of the total infrastructure with a replacement cost of \$26 billion. Park and Recreation assets represent \$16 billion or 3 percent of the total infrastructure replacement cost.

However, we collect only 3.5 percent of all taxes raised in Australia, while faced with the mammoth task of maintaining a third of the nation's infrastructure.

Councils are committed to providing quality infrastructure and creating sustainable jobs.

We need additional funds to achieve this commitment and a longer-term funding assurance that allows councils to recruit trainees and apprentices, upskill workers, and attract skilled workers into rural, regional and remote areas.

Access to affordable housing underpins the economic and social fabric of local communities. We are calling for a national housing summit that can develop a national housing strategy to address the current housing challenges in our communities. Local governments must be involved with national housing governance arrangements.

Successfully delivering for Perth suburban communities



Thornlie Community and Sports Hub (\$5.6 million, partially funded through Community Development Grants Programme) City of Gosnells, WA

"It's been very exciting to watch this building rise from the ground," Gosnells Mayor David Goode says.

"The hub will provide important facilities to keep local residents active, provide a welcoming meeting place, and support local community groups. I look forward to the day when we can welcome the whole community to enjoy it."

Better Transport and Community Infrastructure

We are seeking:

1: A \$500m per annum four year continuation of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program which allows councils to deliver projects that respond to local needs.

If funded:

Jobs created: 3,974
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$604

2: A strategic local roads investment program of \$300m per annum over four years to address road transport first and last mile issues and congestion on local roads.

If funded:

Jobs created: 2,332
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$366

3: An increase in Roads to Recovery to \$800m per annum (an additional \$300m per annum) and the Black Spot Program to \$200m per annum over four years, while addressing the South Australian road funding anomaly by making the additional \$20m per annum to SA in 2021-22 and 2022-23 permanent, to more sustainably manage local government's 75% share of the national road network and boost productivity and road safety.

If funded:

Jobs created: 3,214
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$502

4: Continuation of the Stronger Regional Digital Connectivity Package at \$55m over four years to improve community resilience and local economic recovery.

If funded:

Jobs created: 99
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$18

5: \$200m over four years to assist councils to develop and implement innovative housing partnership.

Local Government Offer to the Australian Government

To partner with the Federal Government to create infrastructure that will improve the safety, liveability and productivity of our communities, while contributing to Australia's economic recovery.

Local Government Ask of the Australian Government

To invest \$500 million per year for four years extending the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, while increasing roads funding and improving digital connectivity in our regions. To invest in an innovative housing partnerships of \$200m over four years to support affordable housing in communities.

Resilient Communities Building Back Better

Communities across Australia are doing it tough – their physical, financial and mental reserves depleted by years of drought swiftly followed by the Black Summer bushfires, the coronavirus pandemic and severe storms and flooding.

All levels of government have worked hard to address the challenges thrown up by these rolling disasters.

They have supported businesses, communities, and individuals –and they are now focused on engineering a national economic recovery.

Although mass vaccinations diminish the health threats posed by COVID-19, the swift succession of natural disasters has demonstrated that communities need to be better prepared.

The likelihood of more frequent severe weather events in future underlines this need.

Investing in programs to mitigate natural disasters is critical to building community resilience.

Communities derive substantial co-benefits from investments in mitigation and adaptation – including new employment opportunities, regional growth, lower insurance premiums, and faster reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Working in partnership with the Australian Government, we can deliver highly effective projects that greatly assist communities to be better prepared and better able to adapt to future climatic conditions.

Successfully delivering for communities in rural Victoria



Rokewood Bridge upgrade (\$541,000) Golden Plains Shire, Victoria.

"It's terrific to see that works have now been completed to replace the old, single lane bridge over the Kuruc A Ruc Creek with a double lane and unrestricted structure, that is safer for all bridge-users", Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Helena Kirby, pictured, said.

"Golden Plains Shire is home to many older bridges, and thanks to the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, we've been able to get on and

upgrade the Reserve Road Bridge for the benefit of the surrounding community.

"Reserve Road Bridge is the first of four bridge upgrade projects that Council will complete in 2021, with works underway or soon to begin on bridges in Meredith, Rokewood and Rokewood Junction."

Resilient Communities Building Back Better

We are seeking:

1: A targeted disaster mitigation program of \$200m per annum for four years which will reduce the costs of response and recovery and is a sound investment in strengthening community resilience.

If funded:

Jobs created: 1,833

Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$280

2: A commitment to ensuring betterment funding as a core element of disaster recovery funding arrangements.

3: A commitment to include community infrastructure that is publicly accessible and owned, and local government waste, water and wastewater assets under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

4: A Local Government Climate Response Partnership Fund of \$200m over four years to enable planning and preparation to minimise the impacts of climate change in local communities and enable councils to achieve climate neutrality as soon as practicable.

If funded:

Jobs created: 467

Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$73

5: \$100 million per annum over four years provided directly to local governments to support the capabilities of indigenous councils and implementation of the Closing the Gap local/regional voice.

If funded:

Jobs created: 804

Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$117

Local Government Offer to the Australian Government	Local Government Ask of the Australian Government
To partner with the Federal Government to grow the resilience in our communities, mitigate against the impacts of future disaster events, while focussing on local opportunities to reduce our carbon emissions and to Close the Gap between Indigenous Australians and the nation.	To provide \$200 million per year for four years for a targeted disaster mitigation program, while establishing a \$200 million Local Government Climate Partnership Program and supporting all councils to implement Closing the Gap targets with \$100 million per annum over four years.

Creating a Circular Economy

Guided by the 2018 National Waste Strategy and the 2019 National Waste Policy Action Plan, building Australia's transition from a linear economy to a circular economy is gaining traction.

By embracing the principals of circularity – retaining the value of materials for as long as possible, designing out waste and pollution, and regenerating natural systems – Australia will develop new industries and jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and make more efficient use of our natural resources.

As modelled by the Centre for International Economics in 2017, a five percent improvement in the effectiveness of recycling and resource recovery could benefit Australia's GDP by as much as \$24 billion.

In addition, for every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled, 9.2 jobs would be created, compared with only 2.8 jobs when the same amount of waste is sent to landfill.

As an example, the South Australian Government has estimated that 25,700 new full-time equivalent jobs could be created in South Australia by 2030 by adopting a more circular economy.

Councils are major players in the management of household and domestic waste.

Local governments co-invest in new materials recycling facilities, lead community education and awareness campaigns, and help to create a sustainable market for recycled materials through procurement policies.

Australia can realise the full potential of a circular economy sooner if local government's engagement and capabilities are effectively harnessed.

Local Government Offer to the Australian Government	Local Government Ask of the Australian Government
To identify and implement opportunities to reduce waste sent to landfill and support the development of a circular economy that will deliver environmental and economic benefits for all our communities.	To provide \$100 million per year for four years to fund local government circular innovation projects, and support our communities to reuse wherever possible.

Creating a Circular Economy

We are seeking:

- 1:** Support to provide guidance and advice to councils on how to unlock the circular economy locally, particularly in rural, regional, and remote areas.
- 2:** Support to investigate and, if feasible, implement a national bin harmonisation program that will improve kerbside recycling, reduce contamination, and maximise opportunities for reuse.
- 3:** Funding of \$100 million per annum over four years to fund local government circular waste innovation projects.

If funded:

Jobs created: 2,332
Contribution to annual GDP (\$m): \$366

What sustainably funded councils could deliver for communities



Upgraded municipal resource recovery infrastructure for South Australia's Limestone Coast.

Naracoorte Lucindale Council Mayor Erika Vickery OAM (pictured centre) says additional financial support from the Federal Government is a catalyst for state and local government and commercial investment in waste management infrastructure.

"By working together, we can all participate in and promote the use of materials that circulate through our economy again and again, providing ongoing value, efficient use of resources and knowledge-based jobs for the future."

Intergovernmental Relations

The Australian Local Government Association was a foundation member of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), and over 28 years made a substantial contribution to our federation.

When COAG was scrapped and replaced by the National Cabinet in mid-2020, local government was effectively sidelined from membership.

The result is that Australia's pre-eminent intergovernmental forum lacks a strong and effective advocate for local communities.

As the level of government closest to the community, we have a unique insight into how to create new jobs, drive economic growth, and build better lives for Australians.

Properly heard, our viewpoints would ensure that decisions are responsive to local needs and contribute to achieving the best outcomes at a local level and cumulatively at the national level.

Australians expect their governments to make decisions that reflect their unique circumstances and requirements.

At the same time, they want all three spheres of government to work together to achieve shared national objectives.

This can only be achieved through ALGA's participation in the National Cabinet or any subsequent structure.

Our place-based, community perspective should not be overlooked – nor our role as a voice for the concerns and aspirations of local communities.

ALGA's input would balance and complement the broader view of the First Ministers, helping to ensure that National Cabinet deliberations result in stronger and more resilient communities.

We are seeking:

- 1:** Full membership of the National Cabinet.
- 2:** A guaranteed seat at relevant Ministerial forums.

Local Government Offer to the Australian Government	Local Government Ask of the Australian Government
To provide a local, place based community perspective to intergovernmental deliberations to ensure that decisions are responsive to local needs and have regard to the great diversity between communities.	To reinstate local government representation to the primary intergovernmental forum in Australia, the National Cabinet, and ensure local government's ongoing voting membership of other Ministerial forums.



DON'T LEAVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES BEHIND!

Federal Election Priorities

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the national voice of local government, representing 537 councils across the country. In structure, we are a federation of state and territory local government associations.

ALGA's members include:



Local government key facts and figures

There are 537 councils Australia-wide. Of these, around 55 percent are regional, rural, or remote councils.

Local government employs 194,000 people.

The first local government established in Australia was in Adelaide in 1840.

Australia's largest council by population is Brisbane City Council, servicing a population of 1.25 million.

Australia's largest council by area is East Pilbara in Western Australia. It covers an area of 379,571 square km (larger than Victoria), has a population of 11,005 and 3,237km of roads.

Authorised by Matt Pinnegar Chief Executive Officer of ALGA.



AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

2022 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 - 22 JUNE 2022

CALL FOR MOTIONS

DISCUSSION PAPER



SUBMITTING MOTIONS

This discussion paper is a call for councils to submit motions for debate at the 2022 National General Assembly (NGA) to be held in Canberra 19 – 22 June 2022.

It has been prepared to assist you and your council in developing your motions. You are encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every issue or question. Your council's motion/s can address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: www.alga.asn.au and received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 25 March 2022.

The theme of the 2022 NGA is – Partners in Progress.

The NGA aims to focus on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Government and Local Governments, can tackle immediate challenges facing communities as well as confidently facing the future.

In submitting your council's motion/s you are encouraged to focus on how partnership can address national issues at the local level, and new ways the Australia Government could partner to strengthen the local government sector to advance community well-being, local economic development, create jobs, address environmental challenges, climate change and complex social issues such as housing affordability.

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is an important opportunity for you and your council to influence the national policy agenda and promote new ways of strengthening the local government sector and our communities.

Note: If your council does submit a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2022 NGA.

KEY DATES



To submit your motion go to:

alga.asn.au/



CRITERIA FOR MOTIONS

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. be relevant to the work of local government nationally
2. not be focussed on a specific location or region – unless the project has national implications. You will be asked to justify why your motion has strategic importance and should be discussed at a national conference
3. be consistent with the themes of the NGA
4. complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association
5. be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association
6. propose a clear action and outcome i.e. call on the Australian Government to do something; and
7. not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

Motions should generally be in a form that seeks the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change at the Federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs.

Motions should commence as follows - *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to*

Example

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore Local Government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

Please note that it is important to complete the background section on the form. Submitters of motions should not assume that NGA delegates will have background knowledge of the issue. The background section helps all delegates, including those with no previous knowledge of the issue, in their consideration of the motion. Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

Try to keep motions practical, focussed and relatively simple. Complex motions with multiple dot point can be difficult to implement and to advance.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-Committee, in consultation with state and territory local government associations, to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Sub-Committee considers the criteria, clarity of the motion and the importance and relevance of the issue to local government. If there are any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, ALGA will raise these with the nominated contact officer. With the agreement of the submitting council, these motions may be edited before inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

To ensure an efficient and effective debate where there are numerous motions on a similar issue, the ALGA Board NGA Subcommittee will group the motions together under an overarching strategic motion. The strategic motions have either been drafted by ALGA or are based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter. Debate will focus on the strategic motions. Associated sub-motions will be debated by exception only or in accordance with the debating rules.

Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state or territory local government association and will not be included in the NGA Business Papers.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: www.alga.asn.au. All motions require, among other things, a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council. Motions should be received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 25 March 2022.



Introduction

As Australia emerges from the crisis management phase of the COVID-19 global pandemic, attention now turns to rebuilding and to the future.

By the time of the NGA in June 2022, the next federal government and 47th Parliament of Australia, will almost certainly have been elected.

Prior to the election the major political parties will have campaigned on priorities and made numerous policy and programs commitments that will help shape our nation's future.

Invariably, in government, these policies and programs will need to be refined, developed and implemented. Almost certainly they will need to be adapted to meet changing circumstances, emerging issues and local and regional needs.

We know from previous elections that governments will not be able to achieve their policy agenda alone. They need reliable partners committed to playing their part in taking the nation forward, working together on mutual goals and advancing national prosperity for all.

During the election campaign, ALGA will be working extensively with state and territory local government association members, and many of you, to advance the national priorities highlighted in the Federal Election manifesto 'Don't Leave Local Communities Behind'.

These priorities were significantly influenced by many of the resolutions of past NGAs.

Whether the Coalition Government is returned or a new Government formed, the 2022 NGA provides the first major opportunity to engage with relevant portfolio Ministers and key members of the new Government.

Most importantly, it provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to reaffirm our national priorities and to place new ideas on the national policy agenda.

The Immediate Recovery Challenges

Government at all levels have collaborated to avert the worst possible health and economic outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic across Australia.

By November 2021 most states had reached or made significant progress in reaching the 80% or more vaccination threshold.

Every community was affected, some more than others, and local government has been at the forefront of developing local solutions to local challenges.

Given the economic and social impacts of the COVID pandemic on communities over the past 2 years, are there issues that need to be addressed by a new partnership between the Commonwealth Government and local governments?

Given the impacts of the COVID pandemic on your council and other councils around the country, are their issues that a partnership between the Commonwealth Government and local government should address?

Jobs

In September 2021 the national, seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, was 5.2% (ABS). The underemployment rate was 9.5% with monthly hours worked decreasing by 1 million hours. Roy Morgan's survey work suggests Australian unemployment (unadjusted) was 9.2% in October with underemployment at 8.6%.

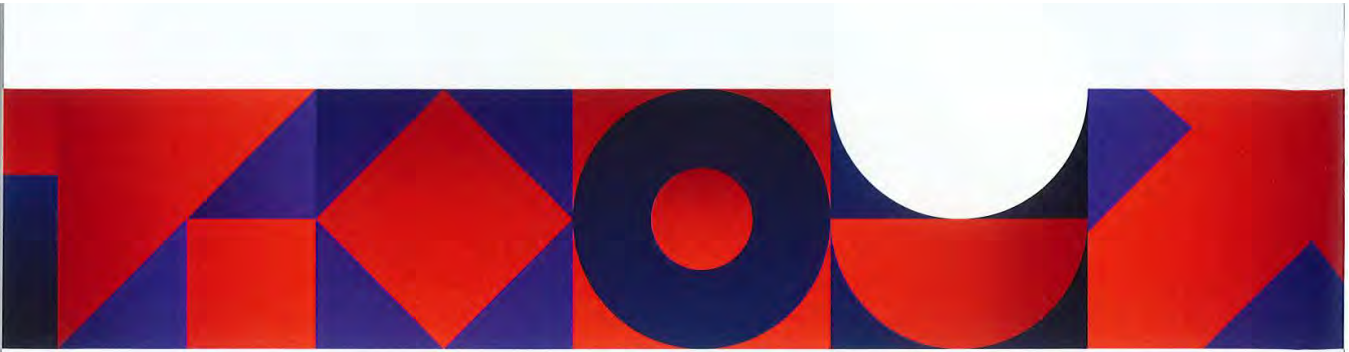
National statistics however mask variations at the state, regional and local level. State and Territory unemployment ranged from 3.9% in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, 5.1% in Queensland and Tasmania, 5.3% in South Australia, NSW 5.4%, Victoria 5.6% and the Australian Capital Territory 6.6%. Similarly, regional and local community unemployment vary from the national average reflecting local circumstances and the different impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns and their flow-on effects have on the local economy. Youth unemployment and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unemployment is also consistently higher.

As an employer of staff and of contractors, as well as a facilitator of local economic development, local government can play a key role in addressing unemployment and underemployment.

In keeping with the ALGA Federal election manifesto, 'Don't Leave Local Communities Behind' local solutions are required for local circumstances.

What new partnership program could the Australian Government develop to take advantage of local government's knowledge of the local economy, geographic spread across the country and its ability to create jobs?

As an employer, what are the pre-requisites for councils to create more good quality, secure local jobs that build community capacity and address local workforce skills shortages?



Building Back Better Businesses

The economic shock of the past 2 years has caused unprecedented disruption to local businesses and communities. While many businesses have adapted to difficult circumstances, some have not survived. The current vacant shop fronts and offices of the streetscapes in our cities and towns is evidence of the challenges that our local businesses, local industry and communities have faced.

The capacity of the private sector, and small business in particular, to bounce back is untested.

What new partnership programs could the Australian Government introduce to take advantage of local government's role in economic development, including to support local businesses?

Opening Australia's Borders

As previously mentioned, by November 2021 most states had reached or made significant progress in reaching the 80% or more vaccination threshold. At this point, under the National Plan to Transition Australian National COVID-19 Response, governments were committed to introducing new measures such as opening international borders, minimising cases in the community without ongoing restrictions or lockdowns, Covid vaccination boosters encouraged and provided as necessary, and allowing uncapped inbound arrivals for all vaccinated persons, without quarantine.

As Australia opens-up its international borders economic recovery is expected to accelerate. The return of expats, international students, overseas migration and international tourism will increase population, supply of labour and demand for goods and services including for accommodation.

In the first instance, economic activity can be expected to return to pre-Covid levels. Over time, with appropriate support, it will grow.

The closure of borders and particularly international borders affected many parts of the tourism industry and the economies of many local communities. While domestic visitors helped fill a gap, recovery of many parts of the industry and the economy of communities that depend heavily on tourism will depend on the return of international travel.

To do this Australia must position itself to compete in international markets. This comes through offering high quality destinations, services and experiences that highlight the quality and value available in Australia. In addition to delivering a better visitor experience, this should also increase productivity, efficiency and innovation.

In the short term, what new partnership programs could the Australian Government introduce to assist local government meet the return of international students and stronger migration now and into the future?

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to facilitate tourism and the traveller economy?



Workforce Shortages and Re-engineering Work

In November 2021 business representatives report significant labour shortages particularly in the agriculture and hospitality sectors. The lack of backpackers, overseas students and migrant workers, combined with people not wanting to return to the workforce, are just some of the reasons attributed to these shortages.

While opening borders may increase the supply of labour, some argue that there is a more fundamental change in Australia's workforce and workplaces.

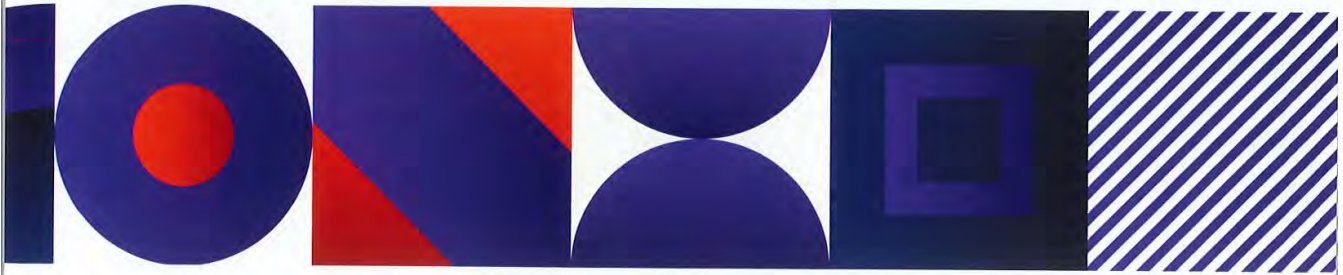
Although not reported in Australia yet, in the United States the post Covid workforce has been associated with what some have called the 'Great Resignation' as employees have adjusted their expectations, work life balance and priorities and simply not returned to their old jobs.

Many workers have been required to work from home for extended periods during the pandemic, including working remotely and now look for greater flexibility in their work. Technology and automation are transforming work and the workplace.

Many are prepared to change jobs to maximise this flexibility and the benefits derived from it. Traditionally this has led to wage pressure but coupled with demand for greater workplace flexibility employers need to be innovative to attract and retain employees. As an employer, councils are not immune and will also need to develop these strategies.

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help support an influx of skilled migrants?

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help councils attract and retain appropriately trained workers and employees?



Climate change

The United Nations Conference (COP) of Parties 26 held in Glasgow 2021 focused global attention on climate change and global and national efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

For decades local governments have played an important leadership role in addressing climate change. Councils have supported the adoption of a wide range of community-based programs and initiatives to lower the carbon footprint of local communities. As a sector, local government has led the debate for lowering carbon emissions, sourcing renewable energy, responded creatively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, facilitated the construction of green buildings and water sensitive design of cities and towns.

Pragmatically, local government has been at the forefront to address the impacts of climate change and adaptation to climate change. These impacts include an increased number of days with high temperatures, less rainfall and more droughts in southern Australia, less snow, more intense rainfall and fire weather, stronger cyclones, and sea level rise. These changes will increase stress on Australia's infrastructure and physical assets and natural ecosystems that are already threatened, and significantly affect agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, health, tourism, finance and disaster risk management.

*How do we work together to ensure that there is local adaptation to climate change and climate extremes?
What partnerships are available to achieve climate neutrality?*

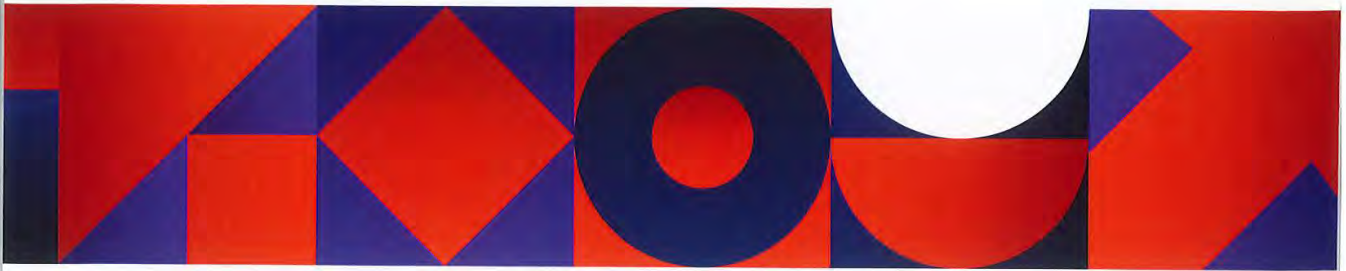


Natural Disasters

With the high-risk weather season commencing, many councils will be engaging with their communities about disaster preparedness, resilience and recovery. Not only have we experienced one of Australia's worst bushfire seasons in 2019-20, but some councils also had to deal with multiple disaster events within a 12 month period. Some councils have had to deal with bushfires, followed by storms, flooding, hailstorms, more flooding and COVID-19. These multiple disasters have had a devastating effect on many councils' financial sustainability and their ability to fund mitigation measures for the upcoming high risk weather season. Smaller rural and regional councils are further financially challenged and require help with preparedness and mitigation, as they currently have zero capacity to fund major mitigation projects.

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements recognised that councils need help. It concluded that without assistance many local governments cannot undertake the roles and responsibilities allocated to them by their State/Territory Governments.

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help to address natural disasters to assist in recovery and build resilience?



Environment

Local government plays a critical role in environmental management including environment protection.

"Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019 – 2030" recognises that we all have a role in securing nature as the foundation of our existence. It is an overarching framework for all national, state and territory and local strategies, legislation, policies and actions that target nature. It has 3 goals:

1. Connecting all Australians with nature:
2. Care for nature in all its diversity, and
3. Share and Build knowledge.

To achieve these goals there are a variety of options for joint action to reduce threats and their impacts include ensuring the design and management of the protected area network considers and accommodates future threat scenarios and establishes robust mechanisms to respond effectively to new and emerging threats. The strategy suggests there are opportunities to '... improve planning, regulation, environmental impact assessment and approvals processes. In addition, threat abatement activities could include targeted pest management, ecosystem restoration (integrated fire management, revegetation), pollution control, greenhouse gas emissions management and climate change adaptation'.

How could the Australian Government partner with local government to help support the implementation of the Australian Strategy for Nature 2019 – 2030 and take advantage of local knowledge?

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help to reduce threats and risks to nature and build resilience?



The Circular Economy

The 2019 National Waste Policy Action Plan applies principles of a circular economy to waste management to support better and repeated use of our resources. The circular economy principles for waste are:

1. Avoid waste
2. Improve resource recovery
3. Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products
4. Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy
5. Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

Councils play a major role in the management of household and domestic waste. Therefore, local government has a critical role to play in further developing the circular economy.

How could the Australian Government partner with local government to advance the circular economy?

What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government to progress these objectives?

Affordable Housing

The shortage and costs of rental properties and affordable home ownership is causing significant social and economic impacts in cities and towns across Australia, including rural and regional communities. This is due to a range of factors such as changes in recent migration patterns, cheap finance and labour and material shortages in the construction sector.

The impacts on local governments and communities includes housing stress for individuals and families, difficulty in attracting and housing key workers and an increase in homelessness.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue 2021 is leading an inquiry into the contribution of tax and regulation on housing affordability and supply in Australia. Whilst the provision of affordable housing is not a local government responsibility, local governments often facilitate affordable housing within their communities, operating within state/territory planning, financial and other legislation requirements. The housing challenge is different in each community and the council response is dependent on its financial resources and priorities.

How could the Australian Government partner with local government address housing affordability?

What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government to progress this objective?

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and support for the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government.

A reminder:

- Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: www.alga.asn.au and received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 25 March 2022.
- It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- Motions must meet the criteria published at the front of this paper.
- When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2022 NGA.



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