



Railton Community Information Evening

Meeting to be held Thursday 4 April 2024 at 7:00pm

Railton Kings Hall

Agenda

1 Welcome and Introduction

The Mayor will provide a welcome.

Please ensure that you have signed in at the entrance.

1.1 Invitees

Councillors	
Mayor Kate Haberle	Deputy Mayor Penny Lane
Cr Rodney Blenkhorn	Cr Linda Cassidy
Cr Phil Dickinson	Cr Simone Haigh
Cr Terry Hughes	Cr Phillip Richards
Cr Don Thwaites	
Council	
Gerald Monson (General Manager)	Nyree Webb (Administration Officer)
David Midson (Corporate and Business Services Manager)	
Community Members	
Guest Speakers	
Paul Ellery, Blue Tier Consulting Sommer Metske, Dulverton Representative	

1.2 Apologies

Councillors	
Staff	Michael Mouat (Operations Manager)
Community Members	

2 Railton Flood Mitigation Project – Paul Ellery

Paul Ellery from Blue Tier Consulting will provide a presentation on the Railton Flood Mitigation project.

Background

A large flood in 2011 had a severe economic, infrastructure and environmental impact on the community of Railton when 60 houses and 14 businesses were flooded.

A later event in 2016 had a lesser impact but still resulted in properties being inundated and a high level of anxiety.

Entura, the consulting arm of Hydro Tasmania, were engaged to complete a hydraulic assessment and to design a flood protection system suitable to withstand an event equivalent to the 2011 event, which was determined at the time as having a 1% chance in happening in any one year.

Community feedback indicated concern in relation to works along the creek in developed private properties as well as proposed alignments of the water course.

Recent developments with the larger mitigation project are outlined below:

- Funding agreements with the State and Federal governments have been updated to reflect the current project scope and timelines.
- The concept design consultant, Entura (the consultancy arm of Hydro Tasmania), has completed their commissioning to validate flood modelling and prepare a concept design.
- Additional consideration has been given to community feedback received late in 2021 that raised concern in relation to works along the creek in developed private properties and that alternative alignments should be further investigated.
- Localised flooding that occurred on the 3 August 2022 was observed in relation to the Redwater Creek project, noting that Council has a capital works budget allocation to improve drainage in the Foster Street area between Dowbiggin Street and Leake Street.
- Various initial improvements have been made along Redwater Creek including enlarged watercourse openings under the railway line.

An informal onsite review of a potential alternative concept design has been held with a possible contractor for the project. They raised concerns with the potential for a very limited number of suitably resourced and qualified contractors tendering on a project of this current design, risk, and magnitude.

The main reservations being that the majority of the works are located in multiple private properties which is likely to result in delays in negotiating access, and the level of detail required to scope, undertake, and reinstate so as to complete the works most efficiently and to a tight program and budget.

Given feedback from the community consultation, and specialist industry advice, the opportunity to potentially provide a flood bypass will be further assessed. Providing a bypass is not dissimilar to the design under construction for the Latrobe mitigation project, although the Railton solution is likely to be more passive in operation. The potential alignments are similar to what appears to be an original water course located north-west of Redwater Creek or along Morrison Street, and then discharging under the Railway and connecting to Redwater Creek near the TasWater sewage lagoons.

Council received a draft alternative concept design and supporting option engineering assessment report from IPD Consulting and resolved at the January 2022 Council meeting to further the possibility with them.

The recommendation endorsed by Council follows:

1. *Engage IPD Consulting to continue work on the alternative flood mitigation solution to divert water along Morrison Street in a box culvert as outlined in the Recommendations section of their memo titled Railton Flood Mitigation Project (RFMP), Option Engineering Assessment;*
2. *Approach State and Federal Government representatives for additional funding of 1/3 each of the latest total project estimate; and*
3. *Advise the community of this work continuing with a current proposed project completion date of 1 November 2024.*

The current Federal Government Community Development Grant has a project completion date of 1 November 2024.

The Council was recently briefed on the latest cost estimates to divert water along Morrison Street. There has been a substantial increase in the estimated costs for this option which is now unaffordable to the Council. However, there was a clear commitment from Council for the project to continue investigations.

Based on the current funding level assuming the additional \$1.7m currently sought from the Federal Government will be forthcoming. On this basis the cost of construction is to be capped at \$12m excluding overheads/design/permits/approvals/compensation in 2024 dollars.

The design team is now considering the options assessment process and timeline for the best option based on the \$12m CAPEX, protecting the most properties at the highest possible flood occurrence. It is likely the most applicable starting point is a 5% AEP (1 in 20-year event).

There is also an opportunity to seek additional funding under a new round about to be released, however this would need to be informed by the redesign process and discussions with the agency regarding a lower level of protection.

Ideally, an option that represents the first stage in a larger flood mitigation masterplan will be investigated.

The Council will approach the State and Federal governments to check that the funding will still be available given a 1% AEP (one in 100 year) flood mitigation system cannot be achieved within the current funding envelope.

Update

As stated in earlier meetings the current funding cannot protect the town from flooding like that which occurred in 2011 and the funding available from the State and Federal governments may be revoked. The State Government Treasury Department has requested that the SES return all unclaimed monies for this project at the end of the 2023/24 financial year. The Federal Governments Community Development Grant cannot be extended past 30 June 2025 and is at risk too. It has been suggested that a cost benefit analysis be undertaken to determine if a project costing significantly more than \$15m could be justified, or if adaptation (eg raising floor levels, relocation to alternative sites) of properties subject to flooding is

more appropriate.

Not taking up the currently available funding is a significant project risk, however not addressing significant storm events is also an ongoing risk. A much larger fully scoped project may stand up better as a new application made under a future program.

Irrespective of this Mr Paul Ellery from Blue Tier Consulting will outline the current status of a potential flood mitigation project and a recommended outcome for the currently available funding.

3 Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) – Sommer Metske

Tasmania's waste management is undergoing a significant transformation with the construction of the state's largest composting facility by Dulverton Waste Management. This facility will allow for more efficient and cost-effective disposal of organic waste, including food and garden waste from residential areas, and assists with extending the landfill lifespan. Additionally, the composted product serves as a valuable resource for gardens and agriculture.

To encourage better waste management practices throughout Tasmania, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) implemented a landfill waste levy in 2022-23. As an added incentive, they will also waive the fee for any waste diverted from landfill.

These factors have encouraged Kentish Council to reconsider the benefits of a Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) collection.

The Cradle Coast Waste Management Group, with Kentish Council as a member, has facilitated the tender process for a FOGO service to assist northwest councils in making an informed decision.

Consequently, a FOGO service is set to be nominally implemented on 1 July 2024 for all tenements currently receiving a kerbside waste service (garbage and recycling) throughout the Kentish Council area.

While reduced compared to previous costings, there will be a fee for this service. Kentish Council will also collaborate with other Northwest Councils and the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group to maximize education opportunities and streamline the implementation process.

Overall, Tasmania's push towards the FOGO service represents a significant step forward in sustainable waste management practices. By diverting organic waste from landfills and promoting composting, the state aims to reduce its environmental impact and create a greener future for all residents.

Update

The rollout of the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service is progressing and on track for commencement in July 2024.

Councils along the NW coast are working with The Bravery (public relations firm) to develop materials to assist households navigate the regional FOGO rollout. A public announcement was made in March 2024 to kick off the rollout of an awareness and education campaign.

Eligible households (those with an existing wheelie bin service) have been notified and provided with specific information about the FOGO service. It is expected that the bins will start to be delivered from May 2024, with the first collection planned for the first week of July.

This first collection of the new financial year will also align with the commencement of a fortnightly collection service for all bin types. Bin collections days will be advised once confirmed with the contractor. In the interim, updates and resources will be shared on Council's website and Facebook page as they become available.

4 Update from Previous Meeting

Updates regarding the community requests from the previous Railton Community Information Session held 30 November 2024 are available at the back of this Agenda.

5 Local Government Reform

Background

The Tasmanian Government has commissioned the Local Government Board (the Board) to undertake a broad review into the future of local government in Tasmania.

The Board has identified seven (7) key areas for the Review based on the services that local government currently delivers:

- Community wellbeing.
- Economic development and local promotion.
- Environment.
- Finance and administration.
- Governance, accountability, and representation.
- Infrastructure provision and management.
- Land use planning and other regulatory services.

Update

The Local Government Board's final report into the future of Local Government throughout Tasmania is now very much in the hands of councils and their communities as the Tasmanian Government has invited public comment and submissions until 29 February 2024.

There are several ways you can have your say. You can make a submission by mail to Local Government Reform, GPO Box 123, Hobart, 7001, by email [to lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au) or online.

The Board has been diligent in undertaking a review of Local Government and has proposed an integrated package of 37 reform options as well as practical pathways and timelines for the implementation of those reforms.

At the heart of all the proposed changes is the overriding objective of working with communities to ensure councils are in the best possible position to support the future well-being, sustainability, and prosperity of the communities they serve.

Our Council's alliance with the Latrobe Council has stood the test of time and has been nation-leading in what it has achieved and set out to deliver. One administration and operational structure supporting two discreet Local Government Areas (LGA's) is unique but despite all that has been achieved, despite the efforts of management and staff, and despite the foresight and support of successive elected memberships, more needs to be done to meet the future needs of our communities.

The proposal to merge our two councils has been supported by the Board (Recommendation 4) and we will need to work with our respective communities to provide information that affords you the opportunity to make informed decisions and to determine your support or otherwise for the merging of our two councils.

The Local Government Board's Final Report can be accessed at <https://engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au/>

6 Tasmanian Planning Scheme

Councils are required under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act), to publicly exhibit their draft LPS for 60 days. The Act provides that any person can make a representation (submission) on the draft LPS within that 60-day time period. Council must then consider the representations received and provide a report to the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) on those representations.

The TPC will undertake a statutory assessment of the draft LPS, the representations on the draft LPS together with other matters it is required to consider by the Act.

Council received direction from the Tasmanian Planning Commission to advertise and seek submissions in relation to the Kentish Local Provisions Schedule (LPS).

The period for lodging submissions closed on 7 July 2023. A total of 64 submissions were received. The submissions have been lodged with the Planning Commission. Council's strategic planner has reviewed the submissions and prepared a summary of the issues raised. They are currently being workshopped with Councillors and a report will be prepared for November Council meeting. Council will then lodge with the Planning Commission, its report on the submissions received.

A series of hearings for those property owners who have made representation will then be scheduled and they will have the opportunity to speak to the Commission

regarding the content of their representation.

Update

At its meeting on 19 December 2023, Council as a Planning Authority endorsed its Section 35F report. The Section 35F report contained a copy of each representation received, a statement of Council Planning Authority opinion as to the merit of each representation as to;

- whether the draft LPS should be modified; and
 - if recommended to be modified, the effect on the draft LPS as a whole;
- a statement as to whether the planning authority is satisfied that the draft LPS meets the LPS criteria; and
- The recommendation of the planning authority in relation to the draft LPS.

The report was forwarded to the Tasmanian Planning Commission and on 27th January 2024 the Commission advised that the report meets the requirements of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1994*.

The Commission have now set hearing dates of 16 – 19 April at the Kentish Council Chambers. Property owners who submitted a representation will be sent advice of the hearings and further detail regarding the process should they wish to address the Commission on their representation.

7 Capital Works

Roadside mowing will be completed the first week after Easter and then the roadside crew will start doing road edges.

Gravel road maintenance has been ongoing throughout the Kentish area. The grader will be relocating to Wilmot area in early April.

A shelter is being installed at the Railton off leash dog park.

Council received the first of its replacement reach arm mowers at the end of February. It was commissioned in early March.

Council is considering widening Leake Street from Dowbiggin Street towards the cemetery in the coming 2024/25 financial year.

8 Operational Changes at Sheffield Transfer Station

The State Government introduced the Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022 for the purpose of encouraging the diversion of waste from landfill, increasing the recovery of resources from waste and to impose a levy on waste received at a landfill facility. It further provides for standards and guidelines to be made for landfill and resource recovery facilities across the State. There are significant fines if Council does not comply with the Act.

From 1 July 2024 it is mandatory for Council to keep daily records of the volume and type of material being deposited at the Sheffield Transfer station. To facilitate compliance with the data recording requirements the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group and Council successfully secured grant funding to install specialized waste management software.

This also means a change to the current way the transfer station operates. You will no longer be able to simply “drive through” and deposit your waste and recycling. All vehicles must stop to enable the load to be inspected so that the transfer station operator can record the approx. volume and type of material being deposited.

Coupled with the above changes is an increase in the landfill levy. Council currently pays \$20 per tonne for waste to landfill and from 1 July 2024 this will increase to \$42.72 per tonne and a further increase by the same amount in two years' time.

Council is currently working on a communications plan, reviewing operating procedures at the transfer station and the charging methodology to incentivize a reduction in material going to landfill.

9 Wild Penguin – Mountain Bike Event

‘The Wild Penguin’ mountain bike race was held from 8 – 10 March 2024. The event attracted over 60 competitors commencing at the Penguin Trails on Friday afternoon and moving to the Wild Mersey Trails on Saturday and Sunday. The riding on Sunday commenced and finished at Seven Sheds Brewery in Railton. These types of events generate an economic boost for Railton businesses, and we wish to discuss the impact on the community as a whole.

10 Other Issues Raised by the Community

Meeting close

Action Items – Railton Community Information Evening 30 November 2024

Railton Flood Mitigation Project

Comment: There was discussion amongst attendees about solutions that use creeks, flat plains and diverting water through Morrison Street into Crocker Street.

Response: Mayor Haberle suggested a focus group to allow residents to share their experiences and ideas about solutions. It was suggested January 2024 in a venue that allows easy access to areas for visual inspections.

Action Taken: A focus group meeting was held on 12 February 2024.

Other Issues Raised by the Community

Comment: There are still cars and motorbikes using the Railton Rattler Trail between Kimberley Road and Sunnyside Road. A gate should be installed to exclude vehicles but allow walkers and mountain bikes to pass.

Action Taken: The area was inspected and lockable bollards have been ordered and will be installed at three locations – at the start of the trail and both sides of Sykes Lane. These are expected to be installed during April. A bollard at the other end is not required due to a large tree restricting the trail.

Other Issues Raised by the Community

Question: Can the trees at the public toilet on Kimberley Road be assessed? The trees are an issue when caravans and trucks pull-up.

Action Taken: **The trees were assessed and have been scheduled to be lifted early April – this is the best time to reduce stress on them due to the dry season**
