

# **Railton Community Information Evening**

## **Meeting held Thursday 30 November 2023 at 7:00pm**

### **Railton Kings Hall**

## **Notes**

### **1 Welcome and Introduction**

Meeting Opened: 7:05pm

The Mayor welcomed attendees, noted apologies and requested Councillors introduce themselves.

#### **1.1 Attendees**

<b>Councillors</b>	
Mayor Kate Haberle	Cr Linda Cassidy
Deputy Mayor Penny Lane	Cr Rodney Blenkhorn
Cr Terry Hughes	
<b>Council</b>	
Michael Mouat (Operations Manager)	
<b>Community Members</b>	
Sue Barker	Catherine Stark
Graeme Barker	Deborah Bell
Daniel Hurst	Ross Crack
Julie Marshall	Jan Gursanscky
Kay Buckley	

#### **1.2 Apologies**

<b>Community Members</b>	Reid McLachlan
	Cheryl Youkee

### **2 Update from Previous Meeting**

Mayor Haberle advised that written responses from the previous meeting were available with the agenda.

Mayor Haberle enquired about the progress of the Topiary Paddock. The community advised that the topiaries are looking better under the care of Kentish U3A, however it would be a long journey to revitalise the plants and the paddock.

The Lion Topiary was overgrown and needed attention, so a community member apprehensively trimmed it. The topiary is normally tended by Council.

### **3 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.

Kentish Council hosted a community information session in relation to local government reform on 20 July 2023 at Sheffield Town Hall.

The Board hosted nine Community Hearings during August 2023 – each hearing provided a dedicated session for both Councils and communities to present to the Local Government Board any area of interest to the Future of Local Government review.

The Board also hosted a dedicated hearing for organisations and peak bodies with statewide policy interests.

All hearings were open to the public and were live-streamed (where possible).

The Latrobe and Kentish Council Joint Submission was sent to the Board on 28 July 2023. Submissions can be viewed on the Board's website. The Latrobe and Kentish Councils presented their submission to the Board's Community Hearing held on 22 August 2023 at the paranapple centre, Devonport.

#### **Update**

The Local Government Board (the Board) has handed the Minister for Local Government, Hon. Nic Street, the Final Report of the Future of Local Government Review.

A summary of the report is attached to the back of this agenda.

The Board makes 37 recommendations on how our current system needs to change so that councils can meet the challenges and opportunities our communities will face in the next 20-30 years.

This is an important milestone in almost two years of extensive research, analysis, and engagement into the future role, functions, and design of Tasmania's system of local government. The Minister is now carrying out a final round of consultation with

councils and the community. Your feedback will help the Tasmanian Government decide whether to make the changes recommended by this independent Board.

Do you agree with the Board's recommendations, and do you want to see them implemented?

Comments and submissions on the Final Report are due by 29 February 2024. You can make your comments:

- By mail to Local Government Reform, GPO Box 123, Hobart, Australia 7001
- By email to [lq.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:lq.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au)
- Online at [www.engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au](http://www.engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au)

## **4 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 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.

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 December Council meeting. Council will then lodge with the Planning Commission, it's 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.

## 5 Capital Projects Update

Capital Works	Duration	Start Date	Completion
<b>Kentish Council Bituminous Surfacing</b>	31 days	25 October 2023	6 December 2023
<b>Reseal Work</b>			
East Victoria Str - Sheffield	0.5 days	29 November 2023	29 November 2023
Landon Str - Sheffield	0.5 days	29 November 2023	29 November 2023
Annie Pl - Sheffield	0.5 days	29 November 2023	29 November 2023
Hope Ln - Sheffield	0.5 days	29 November 2023	29 November 2023
King St - Railton	0.5 days	29 November 2023	29 November 2023
Sunnyside Rd - Railton	0.5 days	30 November 2023	30 November 2023
Beulah Back Rd - Beulah	0.5 days	30 November 2023	30 November 2023
Sheffield Rd - Sheffield	1 day	1 December 2023	1 December 2023
Blackberry Hill Rd - Sheffield	0.5 days	1 December 2023	1 December 2023
Barrington Rd - Barrington	1 day	4 December 2023	4 December 2023
Melrose Rd - Melrose	0.5 days	5 December 2023	5 December 2023
James Rd – Acacia Hills	0.5 days	5 December 2023	5 December 2023
West Kentish Rd - Sheffield	1 day	6 December 2023	6 December 2023
Priority Bus Shelters Project	Waiting on new shelter		Estimated February 2024
Sheffield Road – Historic Watering Site Parking Improvements			Estimated end November 2023

**Question:** Cr Rodney Blenkhorn: Is there a back wall on the new bus shelter?

**Response:** Mr Mouat will check the design and provide a response.

**Comment:** Gravel is eroding the pathway on the Railton Rattler, where it traverses Sykes Sanctuary due to drainage issues. An improved drainage solution and two pack to provide a better and longer lasting finish would assist.

## 6 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.

## Update

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.

**Comment:** Rene Hidding MP promised \$10m from the State Government for the flood mitigation works.

**Comment:** Cr Rodney Blenkhorn noted cost blow-outs on projects.

**Comment:** Two years ago a design was handed to Council Staff (undertaken by a former planner in Sydney) utilising the existing natural water channels as a solution.

**Comment:** Cr Linda Cassidy spoke about the pipe work undertaken in Giblin Street.

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

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.

**Comment:** It was suggested to make Morrison Street a raised channel to divert water.

**Comment:** The bridge on Kimberley Road still saw water flowing over the top of the bridge.

Mayor Haberle advised the discussion should continue when Council's engineer, Jonathan Magor, returns from leave. Residents may forward any information to Council's Operations Manager, Mr Michael Mouat, via email.

## **7 Warrawee Suspension Bridge Update**

The southern bridge abutment linking trail has been completed. Construction of the northern linking trail is currently on hold due to the commencement of the Wedge-Tailed Eagle breeding season and proximity to the nests.

Following a planned nest check, construction has been postponed until after the breeding season.

**Question:** What is the status of the land slip issue on the Latrobe side of the bridge?

**Response:** Mr Mouat provided a response.

## **8 Railton Free Camping & CMCA Camping area**

Kentish Council and the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia Limited (CMCA) entered into a new Lease Agreement on 7 June 2023.

**Question:** How long is the lease with CMCA for?

**Response:** 5 years expiring in 2028.

## **9 Other Issues Raised by the Community**

Mayor Haberle advised the reopening of the upgraded Railton Neighbourhood Centre was very successful and congratulated the volunteers on the facility.

**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.

**Comment:** There has been some anti-social behaviour near the bridge at 51 Foster Street. Hooning and burn outs also occur regularly.

**Comment:** There has been a lot more hooning and revving of cars in the street areas.

**Response:** There has been antisocial behaviour recently in Sheffield, specifically during Mural Fest. Council's Community Development Officer is working on addressing issues in positive ways to encourage change. A meeting will occur this coming week to bring knowledgeable groups together to facilitate solutions.

**Comment:** These issues began when Tasmania Police started to leave rural areas.

**Response:** Any incidents should be reported to the non-urgent police line on 131 444.

**Comment:** Cr Rodney Blenkhorn recounted an incident about a year ago when youth broke into the Recreation Ground. The only punishment incurred was for the youth to write an apology letter to the Club.

**Comment:** It was suggested the community consider different engagement models to engage the youth with the community as a way to reduce anti-social behaviour.

**Question:** A pressure truck going around Railton working on pipes is causing problems.

**Response:** Mr Mouat advised these works were being undertaken by Tas Water.

**Question:** Who is undertaking weed control work, Council or contractors? Spraying is occurring in public places when people are in the vicinity. Also, workers are not wearing appropriate PPE.



- Response:** Mr Mouat outlined Council's requirements for staff to use PPE. It is possible the workers seen were not Council Officers.
- Comment:** Ten days ago, a person perceived to be a Council worker was seen spraying on private property.
- Question:** There are some residents in town not capable of mowing their property. Are there organisations or can Council assist with upkeep to help reduce fire hazards?
- Response:** Community Care may be an option.
- Comment:** Community Care do charge for their services however it is lower cost than a private contractor.
- Question:** Can the trees at the public toilet on Kimberley Road be assessed? The trees are an issue when caravans and trucks pull-up.
- Question:** Cr Rodney Blenkhorn spoke about the condition of the Kings Hall and felt works would be needed prior to the 100 year celebrations.
- Response:** The hall is managed by a Special Committee of Council and should submit a request for works for Council consideration.
- Question:** In 2020, Kentish experienced a high-risk fire season. Council adopted a suggestion for water carriers to be put on plant and equipment incase a fire started while undertaking works. At what level does the fire danger rating need to be for Council to suspend slashing works?
- Response:** Slashing is suspended on total fire ban days.
- Comment:** This is not good enough and a cut-off point should be made for safety in the area.
- Response:** Mr Mouat outlined the safety and equipment currently in place.
- Comment:** Ross Crack resigned as fire chief of Railton Brigade on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023. A second Fire Chief is now first contact.
- Response:** Mayor Haberle congratulated and thanked Mr Crack for his service to the community.

## **10 Meeting Close**

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8:25pm.