

Wilmot Community Information Evening

Notes of the Meeting held Thursday 16 November 2023 at 7:00pm, Wilmot Hall

1 Welcome and Introduction

Mayor Haberle introduced Councillors and Staff present and welcomed everyone.

1.1 Attendees

Councillors	
Mayor Kate Haberle	Deputy Mayor Penny Lane
Cr Phillip Richards	Cr Terry Hughes
Council Officers	
Gerald Monson, General Manager	Michael Mouat, Manager Operations
Community Members	
Sandra Rowden-Rich	Dawn Bishop
Alison Richards	Lisa Ferguson
Keith Harrison	Nelson South
Graeme Charleston	Sarah Mantje
Annette Charleston	Andrew Cooper

2 Update from Previous Meeting

The updates from the previous Wilmot Community Information Session can be located on the Council website.

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.

Update

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.

The Board has now delivered its final reform recommendations to the Government. The Government will consider the report before releasing it to the community and Councils for feedback in late November.

Note:

Mayor Haberle spoke about the recent letter received from Minister Street, and the 194-page Final Report. The recommendation was ultimately to reduce to 15 councils in the future, with the ability for each area to provide submissions to the Board. Kentish Council will commence community meetings and compile feedback for submission in February 2024. The General Manager described the way forward through the timeline. Mid 2025 will see possible results released. Kentish Council and Latrobe Council will still move forward toward the common goal. Everyone is encouraged to read the information as it is released and further information can be found on Council's website under Local Government Reform.

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.

Note:

Mayor Haberle advised that Council had received many calls from residents concerning this report and the Planning Officers have assisted with further information. Feedback is now being processed and prepared for submission.

Question from Community Member

With the planning scheme - how often does a review come along?

Response

The General Manager advised that a review is normally undertaken every 6 years, due to the large process and the split up of rural and State Government lands. Jo Oliver from Terra Firma Planning has provided valuable feedback, and a report will be presented to the next Council meeting. There will still be options for residents to submit their feedback and still further research and work to be done.

The General Manager provided a brief background on the increase in population in Tasmania from 2017-2022 and the resulting housing problems, for both young and old. The subject was discussed at length at the recent General Manager’s meeting, and it was predicted that by 2032 Tasmania will meet the 2050 State Government target of 650,000 people as it relies on net-migration.

5 Works Update

The Operations team have commenced preparatory work for the annual resealing program. The proposed reseals are listed below. Please note that the dates are indicative only and may be subject to change.

ID		Task Mode	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
1			Kentish Council- Bituminous Surfacing	31 days	Wed 25/10/23	Wed 06/12/23
2			Preparation work/ Asphalt Work	3 days	Tue 17/10/23	Thu 19/10/23
3			West Kentish Road - Sheffield	1 day	Tue 17/10/23	Tue 17/10/23
4			East Victoria St/ Main St Jcn - Sheffield	1 day	Wed 18/10/23	Wed 18/10/23
5			Bridle Track Rd/ Sheffield Rd Jcn - Sheffield	1 day	Thu 19/10/23	Thu 19/10/23
6			Pioneer Cr - Sheffield	1 day	Fri 20/10/23	Fri 20/10/23
7			Reseal Work	6 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 06/12/23
8			East Victoria St - Sheffield	0.5 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 29/11/23
9			Landon St - Sheffield	0.5 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 29/11/23
10			Annie Pl - Sheffield	0.5 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 29/11/23
11			Hope Ln - Sheffield	0.5 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 29/11/23
12			King St - Railton	0.5 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 29/11/23
13			Sunnyside Rd - Railton	0.5 days	Thu 30/11/23	Thu 30/11/23
14			Beulah Back Road - Beulah	0.5 days	Thu 30/11/23	Thu 30/11/23
15			Sheffield Rd - Sheffield	1 day	Fri 01/12/23	Fri 01/12/23
16			Blackberry Hill Rd - Sheffield	0.5 days	Fri 01/12/23	Fri 01/12/23
17			Barrington Rd- Barrington	1 day	Mon 04/12/23	Mon 04/12/23
18			Melrose Rd- Melrose	0.5 days	Tue 05/12/23	Tue 05/12/23
19			James Rd - Acacia Hills	0.5 days	Tue 05/12/23	Tue 05/12/23
20			West Kentish Road - Sheffield	1 day	Wed 06/12/23	Wed 06/12/23

Other Planned Works

Lake Barrington Park -Formalisation of track from camping area to boat ramp is due to commence by the end of November 2024 with works planned to be completed prior to the start of the 2023 holiday period. This is subject to contractor availability.

Replacement of failing culvert – Jarmans Road, Nook
Parking area and drainage – Historic watering site, Sheffield Road
Reconstruction of failing surface and drainage improvements – West Nook/West Kentish Road intersection (adjacent United Fuel service station)
Shelter installation – Sheffield Dog Park
Maintenance grading and drain clearing on gravel roads is due to commence in January 2024.

Note:

Mr Mouat described the works scheduled in the Wilmot area and advised of the challenges getting contractors. Mr Mouat said it was problematic as we approach the busy season and there are works near the boat ramp which becomes a very busy area. The road slashing will be finished soon.

Community Member Question

We have received letters on planned logging in November. What impact will this have on the roads?

Response

Mr Mouat advised that pictures will be taken of the roads in their current condition and then reviewed to see if there is a dramatic impact to the condition of the roads after the logging has been completed.

Community Member Question

Are there time restrictions for logging trucks traversing the roads?

Response

Mayor Haberle advised that past issues with noise and after-hours problems should be addressed through effective communication with the forestry company.

Community Member Question

Foxgloves in the adjoining councils are very close to the border of Kentish. It is worrying that it could spread. Why is it not listed as a weed of significance?

Response

Mayor Haberle advised that the Mount Roland Land Care (MRLC) group are active with weeding at this prime time to address growth. They are constantly providing options and education about controlling all weeds that are identified in Kentish.

Cr Hughes gave an update on the MRLC works at this time.

Mayor Haberle spoke about lobbying the government to identify Foxglove as a declared weed and recommended letters be written to the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association and Parks and Wildlife to advise of the issues.

A comment was made that this plant was very quick to take hold, was prolific and

harder to control.

Cr Richards spoke about the Wilmot residents who are working towards eradicating Foxglove from their property.

A comment was made that a contractor quoted \$1,500 per day to manage an area.

Mayor Haberle suggested that an article be placed in The Kentish Voice to educate people on weeds of significance in Kentish and advised that MRLC can be contacted via their website or Facebook for further information.

6 Kentish Park

Kentish Park has been closed to camping since early 2022 following safety concerns and the requirement to comply with competitive neutrality principles. There has been extensive discussion with State Government representatives over a 3-4 year period to seek a permanent exemption to competitive neutrality, without success. The Tasmanian Economic Regulator adopted a position where providers of free camping could only do so if they demonstrated a meaningful attempt at full cost attribution (cost recovery). Council was not expected to turn a profit, but it was expected to demonstrate an ability to break even.

After failed attempts to reach a 'common sense' agreement with the Regulator and State government representatives, it was agreed to exercise Council's rights to transfer the land title for Kentish Park back to the Crown. Council has also informed Hydro Tasmania of their intention to terminate their lease to Council.

Note:

Mayor Haberle provided background information on the history and the current issues and advised that Kentish Park has always been a popular recreational area and has many events coming up in the new year. Minister Barnett has been contacted with the views of the people of Kentish but has not yet responded.

The General Manager also spoke about the history and the calls being received about the site's condition.

Community Member Comment

Because Kentish Park is closed, the other side of the lake is now busier.

Response

Mayor Haberle recommended that if there were parking issues, safety issues, or problems emerging then Council should be contacted to advise before they escalated.

Calls have been received about the conditions in Kentish Park, but the responsibility is no longer in the hands of Kentish Council. People need to contact Parks & Wildlife directly to discuss these issues (contact details can be found on the Parks & Wildlife website).

7 Wilmot Road Reseal

The contractor has confirmed that Wilmot Road reseal is scheduled in December/January pending appropriate weather conditions.

Note:

Mr Mouat provided information about the planned works; small areas will be done, before a final reseal. After the road is resealed it will be assessed for condition.

Community Member Comment

The logging trucks going via another route may be a good suggestion.

Response

The General Manager stated that if it was only a reasonable difference in distance it might be possible but not if it is unreasonable.

Community Member Comment

It has been noticed that on Williams Road, many guideposts are flattened.

Response

Mr Mouat will submit a works request.

Community Member Comment

At 133 and 134 Williams Road, the culverts are very deep and right next to the road.

Response

Mr Mouat will assess the area.

8 Other Issues Raised by the Community

Community Member Comment

The toilets at the Cricket Ground are permanently closed. This is problematic when small children are there to play for long periods of time.

Response

Cr Richards stated that the Cricket Club had made an agreement to have them open and this may have changed. Cr Richards will contact the club to discuss.

Community Member Question

Could adult exercise equipment be put in the Recreation Ground?

Response

Mayor Haberle suggested discussing with community groups to see if they would be supported and approach Council with a submission to consider installation.

Community Member Comment

That the Recreation Ground BBQ is really good, and the residents are really happy with it.

Request

Cr Richards spoke about the parking area at the Wilmot Cemetery needing gravel and an area developed for the drop off and pick up of visitors.

Response

Mr Mouat advised that a works request has been submitted and that he would meet with Cr Richards on site to discuss.

Community Member Comment

The Wilmot Memorial Hall Committee congratulated Council on the building's new roof.

Community Member Comment

The upcoming Weindorfer Day is in May 2024. Council Officers have been working well with the Weindorfer Committee to create a short film festival and everyone is encouraged to think about what they could submit to enter this new venture. There are people available to assist with how to create 2-minute videos using mobile phones.

Cr Richards advised that the Wilmot Community BBQ will be held on 16 December at 5:30pm in Pioneer Park.

9 Meeting Close:

Mayor Haberle wished the residents of Wilmot a safe and joyous Christmas time ahead.

The meeting concluded at 8:00 pm.