

LAUNCESTON RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MINUTES OF MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING, MONDAY 16th June, 2008
AT DILSTON HALL, EAST TAMAR HIGHWAY DILSTON.

Meeting opened at 7.30 pm, Lionel Morrell, Vice President in the chair. Mayor Burt from Georgetown welcomed.

Apologies were received from: Pam Butler.

Minutes: Minutes of the May 2008 meeting were distributed to members and visitors.

Moved by Max Plummer and seconded by Kelvin Jowett and that the Minutes be accepted as a true record.

Motion passed without dissent.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

LCC 5-Year Strategic Plan

Chairman tabled the submission prepared by the Association and submitted to the LCC on 3 June 2008. The submission may be read on the website.

LCC assistance with provision of monthly meeting facilities – In view of the long period of time that has elapsed since Al. Norton originally proposed the idea, it was resolved that the item be removed from future agendas.

Review of Allowances for Local Government Councillors – See correspondence.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial Report indicating no change to the balance reported to members at the May meeting.

Resolved that the Report be accepted.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

Letter from Local Government Board of Inquiry into Allowances dated 6 May 2008, acknowledging the Association's submission and advising that the Minister would be advised of the Board's findings by 30 June 2008 and changes would take effect from 1 Nov 2008.

Outwards:

Letter to LCC 28 May 2008 regarding Launceston Regional Aquatic Centre, the Budget & Rate burden.

Letter to LCC 29 May 2008 regarding Development Application Albert Hall for Northern Tasmania Development offices.

Letter to LCC General Manager dated 3 June 2008 being a representation in relation to the Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

Submission to State Government dated 16 June 2008 regarding a Review of the Planning System Tasmania.

Letter to the Editor Examiner regarding Climate Change 5 June 2008.

Submission to State Government 16 June 2008, regarding Climate Change (State Action) Bill 2008.

RESOLVED that the Inwards Correspondence be received and the Outwards Correspondence be endorsed.

Business arising from the Correspondence: See particular Agenda items.

General Business:

Solar Hot Water Rebate for Launceston Ratepayers:

Chairman reported that he had written to Ald. Ball to ask that he pursue a rebate system like that offered to Hobart City Council Ratepayers.

Development Application to use part of Albert Hall for offices for NTD:

Chairman reported on representation submitted.

LCC Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013:

Chairman tabled the Association's submission as referred to in the correspondence, and summarised the main points. The full details of the submission may be read on the website.

Review of Tasmanian Planning System:

Chairman reported on submission made in accordance with earlier discussion at previous meeting.

Climate Change (State Action) Bill 2008:

Chairman reported on submission made in accordance with earlier discussion at previous meeting.

Dilston Bypass:

Chairman opened the meeting to general discussion and to learn what the present status of the situation was in relation to the community's request for round-a-bouts was, given the support for such by the Launceston City Council.

Attendees advised that already there had been 2 meetings with government representatives, and there was now a period of waiting until a decision was made.

100 submissions had been made to the RPDC seeking round-a-bouts or over/underpasses. Comparisons were made with the present arrangements at the Rocherlea connector, which apparently had much the same traffic count as Dilston/Windermere.

There has also been a suggestion that the old road be left in situ as far as Rocherlea, and the upgraded road run in parallel so that the present connections at Rocherlea could also be used on the southern end, by Dilston/Windermere residents.

Mayor Burt explained that he had attended the meeting because of his Council's interest in the issue due to the geographic location of the municipal boundary.

Georgetown Council have concerns that these connector points do not unreasonably slow down or inconvenience traffic flow along the East Tamar Highway.

The consensus among Dilston area residents is that was not enough consultation by the government before the selected arrangement was imposed, and accordingly the local community felt they were steam rolled into the present situation.

The Association could do little at this stage other than to express its support for the local residents/ratepayers of the Dilston/ Windermere area.

Rating Systems:

It was fortunate that by the attendance of Mayor Burt, Association members were able to listen to his views, as Georgetown Council was about to adopt a rating model based on the Brighton model. Mayor Burt explained that the profile of Georgetown was somewhat similar to Brighton, which enabled a largely flat rate model to be used. There appears to be good community support for adoption of this model at Georgetown, and the more-valuable properties at Low Head were quite delighted to learn that their rates would be capped in a similar fashion to Devonport Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and reminded members that the Association would be in winter recess for July/August with the next meeting to be held in September.

Meeting Close: 9.15 pm

Next Meeting: 7.30 pm, Monday, 15th September 2008, at
Heather Hall,
Penquite Road, Launceston.