

# LAUNCESTON RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MINUTES OF MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING, MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> Oct., 2008  
at Invermay Bowls Club, Forster Street Launceston.

**Meeting opened** at 7.45 pm, Lionel Morrell, Vice President in the chair.

**Apologies** were received from: Pam Butler, Carol Fuller, Rosemary Armitage, Jeremy Ball, Jenny Gill.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the September 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:**

### Solar Hot Water Rebate Proposal

Chairman reported on receipt of an email from Ald. Ball dated 20 October 2008, advising that there was no likelihood of a Solar Hot Water Rebate system being initiated in Launceston as was operating in Hobart, however he was hoping to be in a position soon to announce a far more adventurous proposition for an even bigger step in the right direction.

### Review of Tasmanian Planning Scheme

No further report as yet. Matter to be kept on the Agenda.

### Climate Change (State Action) Bill 2008

No further report as yet. Matter to be kept on the Agenda.

### LCC 5-Year Strategic Plan 2008-2013

No direct response received from LCC as yet.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Financial Report tabled indicating the balance of \$213.60.  
Resolved that the Report be accepted.

## **Correspondence:**

### Inwards:

LCC General Manager 10 October 2008 replying to LRA letter of 8 October 2008.

### Outwards:

Letter to Auditor dated 26 September 2008 responding to telephoned enquiry concerning present office bearers.

Letter to Invermay Bowls Club dated 1 October 2008 confirming meeting arrangements.

Letter 8 October 2008 to LCC General Manager regarding piling project, land acquisitions, boardwalk construction/decay, RAC timber sun screens.

Letter dated 16 October 2008 to LCC General Manager responding to LCC letter of 10 Oct 2008.

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

**Business arising from the Correspondence:**

Letter to LCC regarding piling project failure, boardwalks & RAC construction maintenance.

Members discussed their dissatisfaction with LCC attitude to these concerns. Further discussion to ensue at another meeting pending receipt of LCC advice concerning liability for collapse of the piling works.

**General Business:**

LCC Annual General Meeting

Chairman reminded members of the scheduling of the AGM on 24<sup>th</sup>. November 2008. General Discussion about matters of concern and that should be raised as questions at the meeting.

Our Community Forum

Chairman reported on information advertising a Community Conference to be held at Aurora Function Centre on Sat 8 November 2008.

Infrastructure Australia Call for Submissions

Chairman reported on press in The Examiner On 17 October 2008, where more than \$800M had been sought for Northern Tasmanian Projects.

Chairman reported on telephone discussion had with Northern Tasmania Development CEO Robert Wallace and the various projects for which funding had been sought in their submission. Concern expressed about lack of community knowledge that this had been an invitation for the public to have made submissions, and that the submission deadline was unfairly short. Interest was in Water – Water and Sewerage \$295M (inc. \$61M in Launceston), Energy – Natural Gas Rollout \$100M, Transport \$414.14M (inc. freight scheme, rail upgrade and roads – in Launceston roads totalling \$114.5M, and communication.

From information and a copy of the 6 page submission provided by Mr Wallace, members took particular interest in the submission seeking \$4.5M to construct road access at the Silverdome overpass, \$20M for a Launceston City Bypass (Henry St to Forster Street), and \$10M to connect Hoblers Bridge to Henry Street, but expressed concerns that these proposals had not been planned in detail and their costs were nothing but ambit estimates.

Launceston Road Issues

Chairman reported on the meeting convened by the Executive with people representing Elphin Road residents promoting an Elphin Bypass, and the Invermay Protection Group, and who were opposed to the Forster Street Linkroad connecting Goderich Street (Northern Outlet) and Invermay Road via Forster Street to a new road joining with Vermont Road and then onto Remount Road.

Given the common ground of opinion with these groups concerning the need for a Launceston East-West connector road and combined with an Eastern Bypass road, a Media Release dated 28 September 2008 was issued supporting the opponents of the Forster St Linkroad, calling for a bypass of Elphin Road and the Glebe area.

The Media Release re-iterated the Association's submission to the LCC Strategic Plan, calling for a transport roadway through the land on the southern side of Lindsay

Street, then via the edge of the Inveresk Precinct land to join up with Henry St and then circuit Elphin to join with Hoblers Bridge Road.

This Media Release was issued at a meeting of Invermay residents called by the Invermay Protection Group at the Launceston Showgrounds Roundhouse on Sunday 28 September 2008, which was well-attended and included attendance by 3 Aldermen. That Group's Media Statement was also tabled.

The Chairman then reported on his attendance at the LCC Meeting on 29 October, which had a capacity gallery of mainly Invermay Residents who opposed the Linkroad and listened to speakers from the Group. The Chairman also addressed Council, and following lengthy delays and debate, was relieved to report that the proposed Linkroad was not endorsed by a majority vote of Council.

The Chairman later met with Ald. Dean, who was one of the proponents of the Forster St Linkroad, to discuss alternative road plans that may be better supported by the community and could go some way towards alleviating the road system problems in Launceston.

The Chairman invited general discussion on these issues, and it is noted that no-one present supported the idea that Forster Street should be utilised as a linkroad. Some Invermay residents are understood to be concerned about any road that may run along beside Lindsay Street, particularly if that was going to adversely affect the Inveresk residential frontage.

The Chairman illustrated the difficulties in nominating alternative routes for roads through the Cimitiere/William/Esplanade areas, due to a lack of space, the impact on important industries such as Boags Brewery and Monds Flour Mill, the existing flood levee embankment, and impacts on very significant heritage buildings and City Park. The Chairman said that he hoped that LCC would entertain more public consultation in the near future on all possible routes before imposing a single solution on the community as had been attempted with the Forster Street Linkroad.

The Chairman tabled a plan of the City, showing how the 1996 Launceston Planning Scheme had already defined the approximate route of an Eastern Bypass Route, extending from the Midlands Highway at the Kingsmeadows Connector, then via Quarantine Road/Station Road/Johnsons Road to St Leonards, then via St Leonards Road to Hoblers Bridge Road, then a new road connecting to Henry Street the extending to briefly intercept with Vermont Road, before diverting via the northern edge of Heritage Forest Reserve to connect to a course via McKenzie Street to reach the Northern Outlet Road at the Mowbray Connector.

The Chairman contended that this road course, being clearly designated on the Zoning Plan and having been put through a public approval process supervised by the RPDC, ought to be now pursued by LCC.

Also tabled, was a media statement that had been issued by LCC Mayor Dean and Minister Jim Cox in 2006, stating that an East Launceston Ring road was off the agenda because of the excessive cost of \$500M and lack of need.

Interesting correlation with the new submission for Commonwealth funding by Northern Tasmanian Development (see earlier Agenda item) for a new road essentially completing the Hoblers Bridge Road section as far as Forster Street at an estimated cost of just \$30M was made.

Meeting concluded this issue to resolve that the Association continue to promote action to achieve an eastern road system and east-west link NOT along the Forster Street course.

In response to an understanding given by Ald. Dean, that LCC'S Manager Mr Galea was to develop alternatives for consideration by Alderman over the next two months, the Meeting resolved to designate this topic to another General Meeting of the Association to again be held at the Invermay Bowls Club as the December General Meeting scheduled for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008. Mr Galea will be invited to address that meeting.

#### Launceston Silt Study

Chairman reported on press in The Examiner on 18 October 2008 announcing appointment of GHD consultants to undertake a \$425,000 evaluation which would include public consultation sessions on 27/28 October 2008 at the Tramsheds.

#### Carparking Issues

Chairman invited attendee Mrs Alison Foon to address the meeting on her concerns about the increasing takeover of public car parks in Launceston by CarePark, a private operator, and the issues related to increased parking costs, lack of availability on weekends of LCC car parks and arrangements for collecting alleged parking "fines".

Mrs Foon outlined her concerns and general discussion ensued. Members described how car parks at Harvey Norman, Spotlight, Officeworks operated their car parks, and how they may not comply with Planning Permits issued for such developments.

Meeting resolved to further discuss this issue at the General Meeting to be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> at Heather Hall. It is hoped that LCC and Carepark may choose to participate in that discussion. Questions concerning the operation of Council car parks, and leased car parks were operating in Launceston, and questions be prepared of Council in this regard.

#### Other Matters

Chairman reminded those present of the importance of continuing membership and reliance on membership fees to defray the administrative expenses of the Association. Non-members were encouraged to join.

Chairman also reminded attendees of how the Association had worked hard to encourage Council to restrain expenditure and reduce the rate burden on ratepayers.

#### Annual General Meeting

Chairman reminded members of the AGM that was scheduled for 7.30pm prior to the November Meeting at Heather Hall.

**Meeting Close:** 9.45 pm

**Next Meeting:** Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008,  
at Heather Hall, Penquite Road, Launceston.  
(following the AGM which commences at 7.30pm.)