

# LAUNCESTON RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MINUTES OF MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING, MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL, 2008  
AT HEATHER HALL, PENQUITE ROAD, NEWSTEAD

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

**Apologies** were received from: Pam Butler, Ian Freeburgh, Alan Chugg, Allan Miller.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the March 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:**

Australian Productivity Commission Research Report – The Chairman reported that following the Association's Supplementary Submission now published on the Commission's website, that the Association had now just received a Productivity Commission Circular dated 17 April, releasing the final research report and thanking participants for their contributions.

Noted that the Association's viewpoints are referred to in a number of sections. Further copies are available for purchase or can be downloaded from [www.pc.gov.au/studylocalgovernment/docs/finalreport](http://www.pc.gov.au/studylocalgovernment/docs/finalreport)

RESOLVED that the Association Executive peruse the document and report to the next meeting.

Northern Tasmanian Development – Correspondence to LCC dated 18 April noted, seeking a response to earlier letter, and referring to LCC correspondence to Mrs Laura Hardina.

LCC assistance with provision of monthly meeting facilities - Matter still awaiting advice from Ald. Norton.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Financial Report indicating a present balance of \$183.63, was reported to members and visitors.

Moved by M. Plummer and seconded by A. Ascui, that the Report be accepted.

Motion passed without dissent.

## **Correspondence:**

Inwards: Circular letter from Commonwealth Productivity Commission dated 17 April 2008 (see Matters arising above).

Issues Paper State Board of Inquiry into  
REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILLORS Feb 2008.

Outwards: Letter to Board of Enquiry dated April 12, seeking Issues Paper.

Letter to LCC Mayor & Aldermen dated April 16 seeking a reply to earlier letter concerning Northern Tasmanian Development.

Letter to LCC Mayor & Aldermen dated April 18, reporting on issues raised at the last General Meeting concerning Machen's Reserve and other issues at Kingsmeadows, and inviting appropriate officers to address the Association's next meeting.

Letter to LCC Mayor dated 1 April 18, seeking a meeting with the Association's Executive.

Letter to Launceston Online Access Centre dated April 18 updating/correcting the Association's listing.

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

**Business Arising from the Correspondence:**

Issues Paper – REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ALLOWANCES.

Following discussion concerning comparisons between Tasmanian Councils an particularly the apparent disparity between Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors, it was RESOLVED that the Executive prepare a submission suggesting that ordinary Councillors may be entitled to an increase provided savings of a similar quantum are made to the Operating Budget.

Kingsmeadows matters – Secretary to make necessary arrangements with Mrs Carol Woof at The Manor, to use the Bruce Davidson Community Centre for the next General Meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>. May.

**General Business:**

LCC Rating System.

Chairman addressed the meeting on the LCC paper REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE RATING STRUCTURES FOLLOWING THE 2005 MUNICIPAL REVALUATION June 2006, and how some other Tasmanian Councils had moved to address ratepayer concerns.

Statement recently published from LGA predicting an increase in Rates across Tasmania of 5%+ which is in excess of inflation, noted with concern.

LCC need to reduce budget against alarming trend of recent years, and for Council to live within the means of ratepayer's ability to pay.

References made to the Productivity Commission Report (this to be taken up by the Executive in drafting a public statement.)

RESOLVED that Association was hoping for some positive discussion at the proposed meeting with the Mayor.

Meeting Venues.

In view of the level of interest in the Dilston area previously and the issues raised recently concerning the Dilston Bypass, it was suggested that the Association hold its June monthly meeting at Dilston, and that the Secretary investigate suitable arrangements.

Membership Drive.

Chairman sought that attendees encourage neighbours and acquaintances (whether actual ratepayers or renters) to apply to join the Association (\$10 per year, \$5 for concession members). Reference made to the difficulty many community organisations faced in attracting participation, resulting in significant competition for community input.

**Meeting Close:** 8.55 pm

**Next Meeting:** 7.30 pm, Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008, at  
BRUCE DAVIDSON COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
2 Guy Street Kingsmeadows  
(Access from The Manor carpark).