



Dodges Ferry Community Conversation Meeting Carlton Park Surf Life Saving Club – 27 April 2017

Councillors in Attendance

Mayor Kerry Vincent, Deputy Mayor Brett McDonald, Crl Carmel Torenus, Crl Vlad Gala, Crl Kerry Degrassi, Crl Natham Reynolds, Crl Deborah De Williams

Apologies

Crl Graeme Evans. Crl Lindsay White

Staff in Attendance

Russell Fox – Manager Engineering & Regulatory Services, Jackie Rafferty – Communications Officer, Darren Carter – Municipal Inspector.

Department of State Growth – Project 2018

Guest Speakers – John Dawson & Johnathan Wood

The opening conversation for the evening involved discussion around the renewal of bus contracts at the end of 2018 by the Tasmanian Government. The department is currently seeking community consultation in the Southern Beaches area about improving bus services and developing a public transport network that provides better access to employment, education and services. Other discussion points included: Sunday services, timetables, increasing services, discounted fares, ticketing options, preferred bus routes and school buses.

Question asked in relation to Project 2018

- Q. A Redline trip currently costs \$12.10 each way to Hobart. Will Project 2018 consider discounting fares to make them affordable?
- R. Affordable bus fares and ticketing is something that Project 2018 will need to consider if the project goes ahead.



- Q. Will the service extend to Primrose Sands?
R. Not at this stage.
- Q. The current timetables for bus services in the area are limited and buses are often overcrowded in the morning. Is this likely to change and we will see an increase in services and an extension in timetables?
R. This type of feedback is valuable and will be noted and considered as part of the community consultation.
- Q. Will there be Sunday services as this currently does not occur?
R. Sunday bus services are considered necessary and would be an option.
- Q. Concerns were raised about buses pulling up in places that are not safe.
R. Council considers bus safety a high priority and Council are working collaboratively with the Department on safe bus procedures, including the location of bus stops.

Questions Relating to Dogs/Animal Control

Darren Carter from Animal Management addressed the residents about the Dog Management Plan that will be up for review in September this year. The Plan must be reviewed every five years and includes the review of content and controls in the current plan. The current plan will be open for submissions from the public and all these will be considered. The process is scheduled to commence in May 2017.

- Q. There appears to be more dogs in the community. Is this backed up by registrations?
R. Yes, there has been an increase in dog registrations in the area.



- Q. Some dog walkers do not pick up after their dogs while walking in public areas.
- R. Darren responded by stating that Council provide bags and they are located in a number of areas. Messages and advertising on bags encourage people to pick up after their dogs. Darren also commented that 90% of people do the moral thing but unfortunately there will always be a minority of people that refuse to. Council Officers do have the capacity to fine members of the public for not picking up after their dog.
- Q. Can anything be done about dogs behind private fences creating a nuisance (barking etc.) when walking along footpaths?
- R. As long as the dog/s are secured and do not have the capacity to harm anyone, Council would not normally intervene. Nuisance dogs can be reported to Council with the most common complaint being excessive barking. A process is then followed if a report is made.

A resident thanked the Council for taking the initiative to protect native birds and their nests in the area by providing fencing and erecting signs to inform the public.

A resident congratulated Council on doing something positive to try and manage cats in our Municipality. Well done to Council's NRM Officer Paul Gray (NRM) and hopefully this will inspire the Government to do likewise in areas under their control.

Other Questions:

- Q. Does the Council have any control over trees being cut down on private land?
- R. Council does not have any jurisdictions around this.



- Q. What is the Council's procedure/ process with managing Council trees.
- R. Council would prefer not to cut down trees and their preference would be to trim trees rather than cut them completely down. However, safety of the community must be considered and if a tree were considered dangerous to its surroundings, Council would seek advice from an Arborist to make an assessment before determining appropriate action. Council currently use the services of the Tasmania Botanical Gardens Arborist.
- Q. Who is responsible for the erosion of dunes?
- R. Council are working in collaboration with the Crown Land to minimise access to the dunes. Council has no regulatory control.
- Q. Is it possible to access reporting about the on-going water monitoring of beaches in the area?
- R. Council's Environmental Health Officer Greg Robinson manages this area. The reports are still a few months away from completion and then they will be sent to the Director of Public Health. If you would wish to obtain further information about this Greg Robertson can be contacted via email – greg.robertson@sorell.tas.gov.au

Amalgamation Update – Mayor Kerry Vincent discussed the Voluntary Amalgamation process so far. Residents were encouraged to complete the community survey online via the Sorell Council website (survey closed 5th May 2017). Those requiring assistance to complete the survey can contact a member of Council's Customer Service Team who will complete the online survey on your behalf, over the phone.

- Q. In relation to roadside spraying, is the Council still using Glyphosate?
- R. Council is minimising the use of Glyphosate but it is still used in some areas. Council is in the early stages of trialling an organic weed spray.
- Q. Will the Council consider re-planting native grasses?
- R. Some native grasses are re-planted along roadsides and storm water drains but due to resources, cost and time this is not always feasible.



- Q. A resident expressed concerns with overgrown vegetation on the side of roads.
- R. The council encourages all work requests to be reported through the customer service channels. This can be done by phoning 6269 000 or email sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au. This will ensure all requests are formally recorded in the Councils request management system and you will be provided with a request number.
- Q. What is the process for reporting concerns over wastewater disposal?
- R. Council Environmental Health Officers would investigate this type of concern. To report your concern contact Council's customer service team and they will formally record your request. Issues that Council would investigate would include, wastewater running into a property from a neighbouring property, offensive sewerage odour and issues with new waste water systems.

A resident commended the Council for providing opportunities such as the Community Conversations.