



Midway Point Community Conversation Meeting

Midway Point Hall - 28 February 2019

Councillors in Attendance:

Mayor Kerry Vincent, Crl Natham Reynolds, Crl Melinda Reed, Crl Carmel Torenus, Crl Beth Nichols, Crl Geoffrey Jackson

Council staff in Attendance:

Robert Higgins (General manager), Russell Fox (Manger Engineering & Reg Services) & Jackie Rafferty (Community Services & Customer Service).

Guest speakers – Barbette Moate and Sarah Poortenaar - Department of State Growth – Passenger Transport – to discuss Midway Point and surrounding areas bus route.

The key changes to bus services for Sorell Municipality include:

- Increased services to Sorell and Midway Point.
- Sunday services have also been introduced where none existed previously.
- The introduction of more direct route for express services travelling from Sorell and Dodges Ferry/Carlton.
- A new 'all stops service' that travels via Midway point and into Cambridge Park and Cambridge township.

A number of question were asked around the new bus service changes and transport in general:

Q. Why are Bus fares in this area expensive?

R. Pricing is currently being reviewed state wide. The Department is still reviewing how pricing works and changes will be made accordingly. Red-line currently offer discounts for frequent users and also offer concessions. For more information on the Dodges Ferry / Carlton and Sorell to Hobart bus fares, go to the following website:

www.tasredline.com.au



Q. Does Metro come into the equation?

R. Operators including Metro, Tassielink and Redline provide bus services for different regions as contracted by State Growth. Metro form part of the contract. It is important that we recognise and support the bus operators that have been servicing our area for some time.

Q. Why do we not have a bus depot / central station?

R. The department is currently looking at how a park and ride facility can be best established close to the bus network and cater for increased bus and vehicle movement and commuter parking. Careful planning and mapping is needed to ensure the experience is a good one for people using public transport.

Q. What is the Department doing about the volume of traffic? It is time for increased transport services. During the Christmas period tourists and travellers coming into Hobart found it extremely difficult to rent cars.

R. Agreed, that increased transport services are needed. The Skybus service that has recently commenced in Hobart has been a huge success and is being widely used by travellers coming in and out of Hobart. The service operates 7 days per week from early morning to late in the evening.

Mayor Kerry Vincent addressed questions around traffic congestion and the issue of the Midway Point roundabout.

Options for the intersection improvements are currently being evaluated. We should see some concept design within the next 6 months. The Federal Government recognise that Midway needs fixing but the money allocated by them will probably not be enough to fix everything. Careful planning is required to solve the traffic congestion in the Midway Point area and the airport roundabout so it does not create a further congestion problem down the track.



A number of questions were asked/stated about the safety of roads, including:

- **What is being done about road safety issues?**
- **Will the Government / Council look at widening roads?**
- **Can guard rails be put in place in dangerous areas?**

Mayor Kerry Vincent responded – In relation to State Growth roads, Council meet regularly with the department to discuss areas of concern, including the widening of a section of road near Tas Golf Club and the Causeway.

Kerry discussed **'The Black Spot Program'** that target road locations in Tasmania where accidents are occurring. The program aims to reduce the risk of accidents through funding safety measures and precautions. Unfortunately before safety measures are put in place it often takes a serious/fatal accident to occur.

Road guard rails / barriers – Russell Fox stated that there are a number of areas around the Municipality that require guard rails. Road sections to be considered for a barrier are prioritised according to the level of risk. The outlay of putting in guard rails is costly.

Kerry Vincent and Russell Fox responded to a number of questions regarding speeding issues around Midway Point.

Q. A concerned resident would like to see the speed limit reduced along Penna Road outside the Child Care Centre reduced to 40km and would appreciate Council's support with this idea.

R. Department of State Growth set the speed limits in Tasmania not Council. We suggest to report speeding matters to police and if possible with offenders car registration details.

Q. Bay Road is an area of concern with speeding. Can speed cushions be put place to reduce speeding?

R. Council have applied for funding through the 'Vulnerable Road User Program' (VRUP) for road safety infrastructure in the following areas around Midway Point:

Community

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- **Penna Road / Bay Road intersection –**
Sorell Council has secured funding for the following project and is currently underway:
Install a traffic island, pedestrian refuge, right turn lane into Bay Road, line marking, two kerb ramps and a footpath connecting steps in Kessariorus Park. Existing traffic islands and line marking in Bay Road will be renewed.
- **Bay Road (crest of hill)** - an application has been placed with the VRUP to apply for funding to install speed cushions.

Sewage treatment Plant in Giblin Drive Sorell

Q. What is being done about the offensive sewage smell coming from the sewerage plant in Sorell?

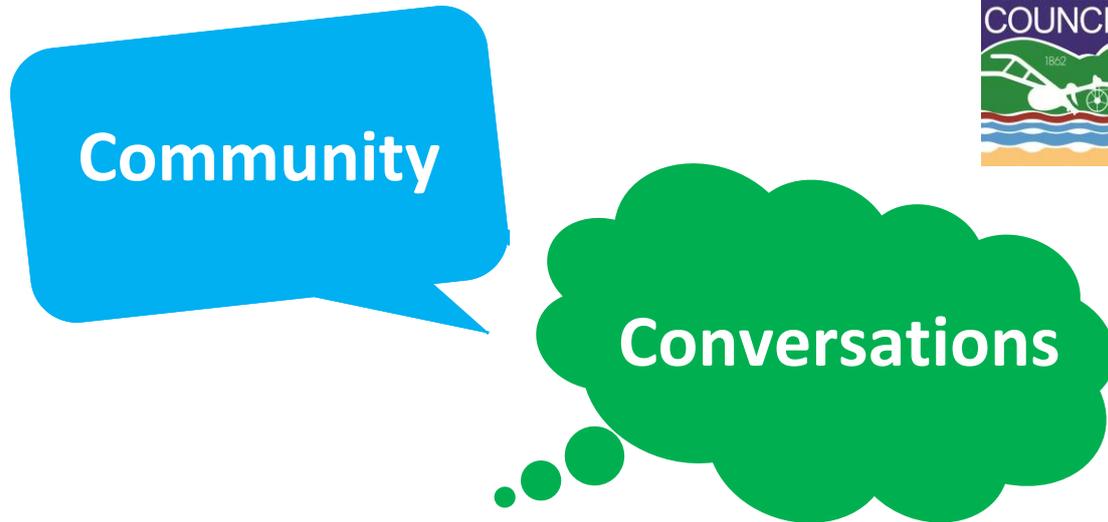
- R. Council is aware of the problem and a Council Environmental Health Officer has visited the site resulting in the installation of an odour monitoring device by TasWater. Furthermore, TasWater are required to implement a new strategy to service the general area. A timeframe for changes to occur will be at least 5 – 10 years away.

Q. What can be done about parking on footpaths?

- R. Council and Police have the authority to book and issue fines to offenders. Council's capacity to monitor such offences are restricted due to limited resources.

Q. A concerned resident asked what we could do to educate others in effective recycling practices.

- R. **Mayor Kerry Vincent responded** - Council promote effective recycling practices via Council's website and articles are often placed on Council's Facebook page, Community News newsletter and 'Sorell Times'.
Although Council are doing their best to ensure recycling is being done effectively, it is difficult to pick up all recycling contamination. Camera technology is assisting with this. Waste contractors trucks are fitted with cameras that have the ability to take videos as well as images of each collection.



A number of questions were asked about Council's commitment to planning and developing footpaths to the foreshore to create a family friendly environment.

Russel Fox responded – The Orielton Lagoon Loop project continues to develop according to successful external funding received for the staged project. Throughout this process Council will be engaging with the key stakeholders such as Parks and Wildlife, Department of State Growth and NRM South. Successful funding has been received recently for the construction and development of stage 3.

Access to the foreshore has some restrictions as the Pitt Water Orielton Lagoon Management Plan does not allow for an increase in accesses.

Q. What is the response timeframe for written requests made to Council?

R. A customer can expect acknowledgement of written correspondence within 10 working days. Where further investigation is required you will be notified of a timeframe.

Q. What are the possibilities of the construction of seating near the Midway Point Yacht Club?

R. Council will consider.

Q. What are the prospects of a public swimming pool in the Sorell area?

R. Robert Higgins the General Manger responded – The topic is raised yearly and although there are a number of community benefits of having a pool, Council does not have the ability to fund or maintain this type of development. Discussions and advice from other Councils with pools suggest they are incredibly expensive to maintain. Council would consider and support a private operator.



Update of School Development Project – Kerry Vincent

A public meeting to discuss the Sorell School Project was recently held. The campaign known as **Get Involved** offered an opportunity for the community to put their points of view forward about the new infrastructure project. The Tasmanian State Government has committed significant capital works funding that will see a complete re-development of Sorell School over the next few years. The works will include a combination of new buildings and refurbishment of existing facilities. Most recently the Government announced additional capital investment to fund the building of an Early Learning Hub to be co-located the Sorell School site. The Hub will provide health, support and outreach services for families and children in the community and will add further substance to the birth to adult learning, training and care vision we hold for our school. Initial planning for the re-development has begun and community consultation will follow. Redevelopment of the school is expected to commence in 2020, with the new Early Learning Hub to be co-located on the site in the future. www.education.tas.gov.au/community-and-engagement/get-involved/