



Dodges Ferry Community Conversation Thursday 30 May 2019

Councillors:

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

Staff:

General Manager - Robert Higgins, Engineering Manger - Russell Fox and Team Leader Community Services and Corporate Administration - Jackie Rafferty

In attendance: 20

Start: 6.30pm Finish: 8.15pm

Introduction:

Mayor Kerry Vincent introduced, Councillors and Sorell Council staff.

Topics of discussion:

PIPE LINE

Kerry opened the meeting with discussions regarding the proposed pipeline.

The State Government and Sorell Council will each invest \$210,000 to build a 4.5km pipeline from Forcett to the Dodges Ferry Football Oval. The pipeline will also supply water to the Dodges Ferry Primary School and the Dodges Ferry Fire Brigade. The construction of the works is expecting to take 4 months to complete.

ROAD WORKS

Q: What type of works are occurring on Carlton River Road and Sugarloaf Road?

R: Russell Approximately 500 metres of Sugarloaf Road, from Carlton River Bridge to just past Carlton Road turn off are being constructed and realigned. New and upgrade of roads are very expensive on a limited budget. The road works along Sugarloaf will be staged and completed over the next 2 years including the instalment of barriers. Sugarloaf Road



speed is currently 100km/hr but should be a 80km/hr. An application will be made to the Department of State Growth to assess the recommendation.

R: Kerry **Roads to Recovery Program** directs funding to local Councils for the maintenance of local roads, however the costs of upgrading roads now has blown out dramatically over the last few years.

Q: A local resident asked if it was necessary to keep putting money into roads? Can we use some of this allocation of funds for smaller things? We appear to be losing sight of why we first moved into the area (eg. Shack area / unsealed roads).

R: Russell Council would be more than happy not to seal any more roads and focus on fixing drainage issues in the area, but one of the biggest complaints Council receive regarding unsealed roads is the high level of dust they create. It is up to communities to say what they want but community backing is required.

BRIDGES RENEWAL PROGRAM

Kerry discussed the Government's Bridge Renewal Program - Bridge replacement in the Municipality over the past few years has included the Carlton River Bridge and recently the Sunnyside Bridge, completed in April this year. Both bridges cost around \$2.5 million to replace.

PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS

Q: A resident asked about the possibility of a pedestrian walkway along Lewisham Scenic Drive.

R: Robert Council have looked at a number of possible solutions but all will come at a significant cost.

R: Russell Lewisham Scenic Drive is one of our worst designed roads in the Municipality. To create pedestrian walkways Council have looked at the possibility of making the road one way but this would more than likely be opposed by the residents. A possible outcome is to work with Crown Services to provide walkways along the foreshore. This will come at a cost to install and maintain.



R: Kerry There have been a number of complaints over the years with cars parking along areas of Lewisham Scenic Drive that are meant to be for walking pedestrians. Walkways along the foreshore would provide a better option for people.

Q: Is anything being done about putting in a footpath to link the boat park to the main road?

R: Robert There is a big demand for footpaths in the Municipality and Council constantly juggle the demands from various communities.

R: Russell Council also need to juggle community expectations regarding what materials are used to create footpaths EG. gravel versus concrete.

Q: A local resident asked questions around the suitability of bus stop locations.

R: Russell Appointed bus stop locations are carefully selected to ensure their position is safe and in particular to ensure passengers can safely get on and off the bus. At times bus drivers are not doing the right thing and allowing passengers to exit outside the allocated bus stops.

Q: Have complaints been made to Council in regards to buses crossing the wrong side of road at the junction of Park Beach Road onto Carlton Beach Road? Appears to be very dangerous and difficult for buses to manoeuvre around this area.

R: Kerry Not aware of any complaints.

R: Russell Council will investigate.

ENVIRONMENT

Q: A resident from the Dodges Ferry area and member of Landcare raised some concerns regarding the environment, stating that some animal species were threatened and are not found in the area anymore. He also stated that certain plant life is also under threat. There is no mention of environmental considerations in the recent strategic plan. What are Council doing about the natural environment? Council seem to be doing everything for development. What are Council doing about threatened species in the area?



R: Robert Take on board your point but Council have done what they can with limited resources and have not had had the resources to spend on particular natural environment matters. Could we do more? Probably.

Q: It is not always about the money. More about the how.

R: Robert Happy to sit down and have an open discussion and consider what we can do more of to protect flora and fauna in the area.

The following statements were made regarding plastics:

Plastic is all over the place. All levels of government are not taking responsibility. Rubbish waste is about the environment.

Residents and business owners should be doing more to reduce plastic in the community. Care of the environment is everyone's responsibility.

Q: A concerned resident raised concerns that there were a number of developments in the area that have conditions on them and implied that Council were not upholding and following up on their obligations.

R: Robert Sorell Council is a small Council and do not have the resources to monitor all circumstances. If we are made aware of the situation we have an obligation to respond, but unfortunately we are reactive. Council have a responsibility under the Planning Act to follow up and investigate.

Q: A resident from the Dodges Ferry area expressed their concerns over information that was given to Council to follow up on a permit and implied that Council did not provide the correct information.

R: Robert Aware of the situation and there have been a number of conversations regarding the matters around the Samuel Thorne Reserve. Unfortunately there is no budget to investigate the full extent of some of the issues.



DODGES FERRY SCHOOL

Q. What is happening with the future development of the primary school?

R: Kerry At this stage nothing has been approved. Current enrolments for this year are sitting around 480 to grow to 500 by next year. Looking at better options for car parking around the school.

STORMWATER

Q. A number of questions were asked regarding stormwater issues in the area and location of GPT's (Gross Pollutant Traps).

R: Kerry A great deal of work has been done at Council over the past 6 to 8 years to fix and repair stormwater issues. Council's current asset management system in place has improved Council's ability to manage stormwater more effectively.

Water Monitoring - Greg Robertson, Council's Manager of Regulatory Services is responsible for water monitoring along our foreshores.

R: Russell Drainage problems on some of the roads in the Municipality is still an issue. Mostly due to poor construction of road base when roads were first put down.

GPT's – There are a number of GPT's in the area. They play an important role in stormwater management as they effectively remove the debris from our waterways.

FERAL CATS

Q. A number of questions were asked in regards to the on-going issue of feral cats and how Local and State Government are tackling the problem. One resident suggested that other Council's were looking into registering cats and would this help minimise the problem. What should you do if you catch a feral cat?

R: Kerry Aware that this is an on-going issue and the State Government have limited resources to address the problem.



R: Russell Local Government does not have any obligations under the Act to trap or collect cats but agree that registering cats would assist and minimise the issues of feral cats.

Council suggest to call the Cat's Home if you are to trap a feral cat.

HORSES ON BEACHES

Q: A local resident raised issues with horses on beaches and is concerned riders are causing damage to the area. Another resident indicated that in the past there was a sign erected informing people not to ride horses along the beach.

R: Russell The land is owned by Crown Services and Council do not have the authority to enforce or direct people not to ride horses along this area. Council will follow up with Crown and make them aware.

Q: Questions were asked regarding the land site for the proposed swimming pool, size of the pool and type of usage.

R: Robert The swimming pool will be 6 lanes with change room amenities and car parking. A private operator will be responsible for the operations and the use of the pool will be for public use.

RECYCLING CENTRE

Q. Is the recycling centre still going ahead to be rebuild?

R: Russell Currently waiting for the development application to be approved. Hopefully approval will come through in July.

Q: Why does the recycling centre need to be placed where it is, next to the school?

R: Russell Council have considered other options but the community want it there. Nobody in the community want to have their residence next to the recycling centre.



Council will install more CCTV's in the area in next budget.

R: Kerry Council is investing in more cameras in the area for trouble spots in the Municipality.

DISPOSAL OF LAND

Q: Questions were asked around the disposal of Council land?

R: Robert Council have been through a process of identifying vacant land parcels in the Municipality with the idea of selling some of the vacant parcels to fund community projects.

NATURE BASED PLAYGROUND – CARLTON BEACH

Q: A resident raised the topic of creating a nature based playground with pathways in Carlton Beach, better known by the local's as Snake Hollow.

R: Kerry To assist with future planning, we need to bring the community together with experts in the field to discuss the best approach.