



## **Midway Point Community Conversation Meeting**

**Pittwater Scout Hall - 29 September 2017**

### **Councillors in Attendance:**

Mayor Kerry Vincent, Crl Brett McDonald, Crl Deborah De Williams, Crl Kerry Degrassi, Crl Graeme Evans.

### **Council staff in Attendance:**

Robert Higgins (General Manager), Russell Fox (Manager Engineering & Reg Services), Greg Robertson (Senior Environmental Health Officer), Darren Carter (Municipal Inspector), Jackie Rafferty (Manager Community Services & Customer Service).

### **Guest Speakers - Johnathon Wood & John Dawson - Department of State Growth – to discuss potential changes to bus services in the area – PROJECT 2018.**

Project 2018 is the re-contracting project of bus services around the state with the intention of improving access to employment, education and services. The process is a huge one with 460 bus contracts to be re-negotiated. The project is currently going through the process of public consultation and reviewing services. As part of the consultation with Councils, some Councils have identified interested community groups who they have asked the department to talk to.

John Dawson from the Department of State Growth will make recommendations at the end of the year to contribute to Project 2018. If members of the community would like to make suggestions or comment, this can be done via the department's website:

[http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/project2018/general\\_access/feedback\\_form](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/project2018/general_access/feedback_form)

Other considerations for Project 2018:

- Increase services to alleviate congestion on our main roads. Looking at possibility of express bus services and priority lanes.
- Currently there are inconsistencies with concessions. Looking at standardising this across urban and non-urban areas.
- Increase frequency and accessibility of services to encourage the community to use bus services. This includes increasing services on the weekends.



- Ensure costs are kept to a minimum. Cost for adults are currently expensive costing an individual \$15.60 for a return ticket.

#### **Darren Carter, Municipal Inspector discussed the Dog Management Plan 2017**

The Dog Management Plan has been reviewed. Changes include:

- The entire length of Red Ochre Beach including Blue Lagoon is now declared as a restricted area where dogs will not be permitted from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- **Restricted times and months for Dogs on Beaches:** Beaches that have had restrictions from 31<sup>st</sup> Dec to the 31<sup>st</sup> March between the hours of 10am & 7pm have been changed to 1<sup>st</sup> December to the 1<sup>st</sup> March and hours from 10am to 6pm, allowing people to walk their dogs earlier of an evening with minimal impact to the public and to be consistent with other Councils.

Through a process of public consultation, members of the community were able to submit their feedback and make recommendations. This was advertised in a variety of ways including: Mercury Ad, Website, Facebook & Sorell Times.

**Q. *There appears to be more dogs walkers around the Midway Point area and some dogs are walked without leads. There needs to be more policing of this in the area.***

R. It is difficult to be everywhere and resources are limited. If we do see someone in the community walking their dogs without a lead they will be addressed and asked to control their dogs appropriately. We do rely on the community to assist. If you see someone doing the wrong thing by all means contact Council and inform them. Addresses and names are useful and statements can be taken from members of the public.

#### **Greg Robertson Senior Environmental Health Officer discussed waste management and other environmental issues.**

Sorell Council provide some of the most comprehensive waste services in Tasmania. We were the first Council in Tasmania to place cameras in our trucks which has minimised complaints and disputes. Recent technology has also assisted in keeping our waste services in check.



Green waste and hard waste bookings can be completed on-line. A receipt number will be automatically generated and issued after the booking has been made.

Council is currently trialling a bin stabiliser to stop bins falling over. Feedback will be available soon and results will be placed on our website.

**Q. *Can the time be extended for green waste and hard waste bookings?***

R. NO. Unfortunately the time is strictly set as the data needs to be sent to the contractors by a particular time.

**Q. *Why don't we have bins for green waste?***

R. The survey put out to the community in 2014 indicated that the public preferred the current arrangement, placing waste onto tarps etc. enabling larger quantities to be put out (2 cubic metres).

**Q. *The Sorell Re-cycling Centre boom gate makes it difficult to dispose of waste at the site.***

R. Unfortunately this was required as some people were dumping excessive amounts of waste on the site.

**Q. *Are larger bins available for weekly house waste?***

R. Upgrade options and costs include: General Waste Bins- 140lt - \$176.40/yr & 240lt - \$255.83/yr  
Re-cycling Waste Bins - 140lt - \$132.80 \$240lt - \$92.58/yr.

**Q. *What are the options for people with physical difficulties and unable to place bins on kerbside for collection.***

R. For those people that have a physical impairment and are unable to place their bins out for collection, arrangements can be made for the contractor to retrieve your bins. A driver collection application must be filled in at Council attached with a medical certificate from a



general practitioner or medical specialist verifying that you are not physically able to wheel the bin to the front of the property. A representative from Council's Waste Contractor will contact you to arrange a convenient time to inspect the property and complete a risk assessment to determine if a driver can safely collect a bin from your property.

**Q. What can be done about noise issues?**

R. Noise concerns/issues can be investigated by Council. In some cases a noise nuisance recording log may be required to be filled out detailing incidents causing you noise nuisance over a period of 10 days. The form can then be returned to the Senior Environmental Health Officer. The majority of incidents are resolved promptly by Council's Environmental Health Officers.

**The General Manager addressed questions around the current issues of the Midway Point/Airport roundabouts, law enforcement concerns and condition of footpaths.**

- Council met with the State Cabinet on the 25<sup>th</sup> September and they indicated they were working on the problem of vehicle movement in the Midway Point area. It would appear that the airport roundabout would need to be fixed first before focusing on Midway Point. Planning and consultation is still ongoing with no firm decision made of when works will commence.
- Council is currently in the process of looking at the potential of situating an Emergency Hub in Sorell that would see all emergency services located in one area. Although Council does not have any control over the policing of Sorell Police Station they are able to inform police on issues that may affect the Municipality. Residents are encouraged to phone police with issues of speeding and hooning.
- Speed cushion options can be investigated in identified areas of to assist in the calming of traffic. This is dependent on funding and grant opportunities.
- Issues with footpaths - Council are currently in the process of assessing footpaths in the area and will prioritise works accordingly.



### Other issues

**Q. Questions were raised in regards to Penna Road unfinished works.**

R. During the course of works Aboriginal artefacts were discovered and Council are currently in the process of applying for permits before works can be finished.

**Q. A concerned resident raised the following concerns with Shark Point Road (West end).**

- **Speeding -**  
R. A traffic counter can be considered which will record , speed, size and weight of vehicles.
- **Evidence of infrastructure issues –**  
R. Council is currently assessing road issues and in particular edge breaks.
- **Watering of roads –**  
R. This is required to minimise crystallising and cracking into the sub-base.

**Q. What is Council's processes for addressing Customer complaints and concerns?**

R. Complaints/enquires can be directed to the Customer Service Team at Council via email, walk-in or phone. The enquiry is then recorded into the CRM system or records management system and then sent to the appropriate person within the department that is specialised in responding to the matter. To confirm your enquiry a receipt number will be issued.  
**Response time:** written correspondence will be acknowledged within 10 working days; phone calls will be responded to within 48 hours and Emergency calls will be attended to as soon as possible. From the first point of contact the customer service team will aim to resolve your enquiry immediately if possible. Council IT systems allow data and comprehensive information to be stored to allow our team to respond to a number of enquiries.



**Q. The installation of speed cushions in Nash Street was raised as an issue forcing drivers to stop/start when driving.**

R. Speed cushions are designed to slow down traffic in identified areas. Signage on either side of the road notify drivers of the changed traffic conditions. The overall feedback from residents in the area indicate a positive change to the calming of traffic in this area.

**Q. *Can the speed limit along Gordon Street (between the roundabout and traffic lights) be changed to 40km as a number of trucks use this road.***

R. The Department of State Growth are responsible for setting speed limits. The current limit along this road is 50km. Large trucks entering Sorell to access Arthur Highway or Tasman Highway must enter through Gordon Street as they are prohibited to access Forcett St / Parsonage Pl off the roundabout near the school.

**Q. *Is car-pooling part of a possible solution for the traffic issue?***

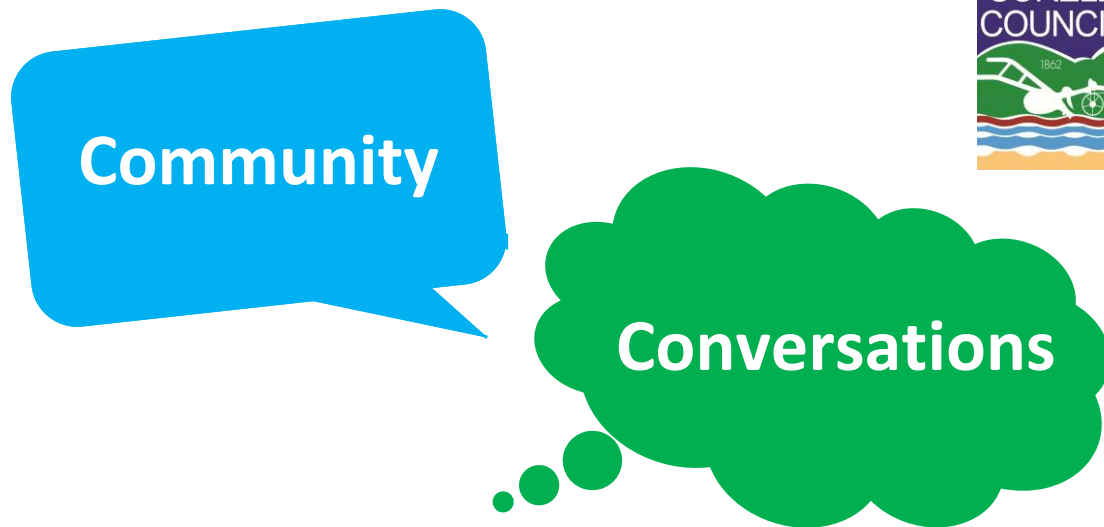
R. Car-pooling could well be a possible strategy to help elevate the traffic congestion. Council has also now completed a Park & Ride in Station Lane Sorell which provides a further option for commuters.

**Q. *The beach walkway access at Midway Point requires some maintenance and requires a handrail.***

R. The land is currently maintained by Crown Land Services. Council are currently investigating the possibility of applying to lease this land.

**Q. *Tree branches at the end of the walkway of the causeway (Sorell end) are overgrown and require trimming.***

R. Council will investigate.



***Q. Questions were asked about additional street lights in Midway Point.***

R. Street lighting is managed by TasNetworks and Council pays for usage. Requests for new lights and light upgrades must be made to TasNetworks, via Council. Council also informed residents of the LED light replacement program which is set to go ahead. This will see LEDs replace old, inefficient and expensive technology.