



LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL AGENDA

**COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 26 MAY 2014**

LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday 26 May 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of the Launceston City Council will be held at the Council Chambers -

Date: 26 May 2014

Time: 1.00 pm

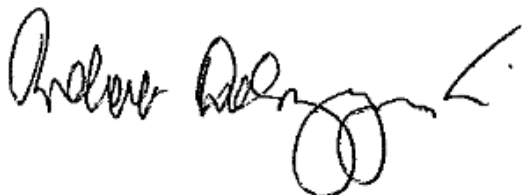
Section 65 Certificate of Qualified Advice

Background

Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires the General Manager to certify that any advice, information or recommendation given to council is provided by a person with appropriate qualifications or experience.

Declaration

I certify that persons with appropriate qualifications and experience have provided the advice, information and recommendations given to Council in the agenda items for this meeting.



Robert Dobrzynski
General Manager

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1 OPENING OF MEETING - IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Launceston City Council held on 12 May 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4 DEPUTATION

Nil

5 ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS PUBLIC AND ALDERMEN'S QUESTION TIME

Nil

6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR**8.1 Mayor's Announcements****FILE NO:** SF2375

Tuesday 13 May

Officiated and presented certificates at Community Care NESB Volunteers event
Attended Launceston & Tamar District Scout Association AGM

Wednesday 14 May

Attended KPMG Federal Budget Breakfast
Officiated and presented Certificates at Launceston LINC High Tea for Volunteer Week
Attended LGH Visual Arts Committee Art Prize & Exhibition "Art in Health"

Thursday 15 May

Officiated and presented at 2014 LCC Volunteer Recognition Awards
Officiated at Volunteering Tas Volunteer Week Celebration
Attended RSL (Tasmania Branch) State Congress Dinner

Friday 16 May

Officially opened RSL State (Tasmania Branch) 99th Annual State Congress
Officiated at Fair Trade Celebration Event
Attended Colony 47 business event
Officially welcomed delegates at Museums Australia Conference
Attended Cape Hope Charity evening

Saturday 17 May

Attended A Night of Compassion Gala Ball

Monday 19 May

Attended event for Matthew Garwood

Tuesday 20 May

Officiated at Launceston Christian School
Attended Tas Hospitality Association celebration for 175 years of hospitality in Tasmania

Thursday 22 May

Attended Media launch for Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal
Officiated at CityProm Members Business event at Town Hall
Attended dinner with Minister for State Growth, Matthew Groom MP

Friday 23 May

Officiated at the National Trust Welcome Wall Project launch of Expressions of Interest
Attended Government House Reception

8.1 Mayor's Announcements...(Cont'd)

Saturday 24 May

Attended and presented at Lilydale Lope race event

Attended NTFA South Launceston v Rocherlea Seniors Game

Attended Naval Association of Australia Launceston South Sub Section

9 ALDERMEN'S/DELEGATES' REPORTS

10 QUESTIONS BY ALDERMEN

11 COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Pedestrian & Bike Committee Meeting - 1 May, 2014

FILE NO: SF0618

AUTHOR: Julie Tyres (Administration Officer - Road Assets)

DIRECTOR: Harry Galea (Director Infrastructure Services)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive and consider reports from the Pedestrian & Bike Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report from the Pedestrian & Bike Committee Meeting held on 1 May 2014 be received.

REPORT:

- Levee Walkway and Cycle Path (Inveresk Precinct)
Committee in principal resolved to support the plans for the Levee Walkway and Cycle Path provided by the Launceston Flood Authority, noting that limited opportunity for input from the PBC prior to going out to Tender.
 - 'Positive Provision Policy for Cycling Infrastructure'
PBC to initiate meeting with West Tamar Council, DIER and TBUG, to discuss policy and working together.
 - Bike Route Signage
Yellow strips to be installed under Paterson Street Bridge to warn cyclists to slow down on bend.
 - Terms of Reference PBC
Committee to review Terms of Reference to include specific 'Walking' representative, in conjunction with standard post-election committee review.
-

11.1 Pedestrian & Bike Committee Meeting - 1 May, 2014...(Cont'd)

- Bike Strategy
Strategy will be taken to Council in June.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The increasing use of non-motorised transport, such as bikes and walking, will provide a net positive economic benefit.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Promoting travel by bicycle reduces the negative impacts of motorized transport and the use of finite fuel resources.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Increasing opportunities for travel by bicycle will improve access to employment, schools and other services

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Goals that are considered relevant from the Cycling Strategy are:

- Goal 2.1 - Facilitate a sustainable approach to enhance access to and within the municipality.
- Goal 3.4 - Provide and promote safe city environment

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Harry Galea: Director Infrastructure Services

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13 NOTICES OF MOTION - FOR CONSIDERATION

13.1 Notice of Motion - Alderman Sands - Lindsay and Goderich Streets Intersection

FILE NO: SF5547 / SF1681 / SF1490

AUTHOR: Alderman Sands

GENERAL MANAGER: Robert Dobrzynski (General Manager)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a Notice of Motion from Alderman Sands regarding the intersection of Lindsay and Goderich Streets

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That Launceston city council seek an urgent discussion with the interim Secretary of DIER, the Minister for Infrastructure Mr Rene Hidding, and the Treasurer Mr Peter Gutwein on site at the intersection of Goderich and Lindsay Streets to enable them to gauge first-hand the traffic dilemma that will eventuate when Bunnings Superstore opens early in June 2014, and to evaluate the merits of a roundabout at the junction.

REPORT:

Background information provided by Alderman Sands:

With the impending opening of Bunnings early in June 2014, there will be a grid lock effect created at the intersection of Goderich and Lindsay Streets. This carriageway has a traffic density now of 35,000 to 40,000 vehicles per day, when the store is opened there will be traffic management issues to contend with for some weeks post opening.

The dilemma facing Launceston City Council is quite simply that the bridge has a limited capacity for turn right vehicles on Charles Street Bridge, and there will be a backlog of vehicles who wish to turn right but will be severely limited by the traffic signals at the intersection.

13.1 Notice of Motion - Alderman Sands - Lindsay and Goderich Streets Intersection...(Cont'd)

The obvious result will be those wishing to turn right will bank up on the right hand lane beyond JMC and even further south creating a traffic management issue with no solution that can be applied with expediency to alleviate the problem.

Bunnings will have an access to their site off Lindsay Street and a new access off Gleadow Street, there is construction taking place now that will allow traffic flow to exit Bunnings on to Gleadow Street, then presumably to flow onto Goderich Street via a left turn lane which will cause further traffic issues heading North on Goderich Street.

The problem will remain until funding is made available to bring about a radical change to this particular main arterial intersection, and to allow residents and visitors to traverse this carriageway with a minimum delay.

Launceston City Council must as a matter of urgency push for this meeting possibly on a Friday after the Government has finished on the Thursday evening to allow the problem to be assessed on site, by the appropriate people who will be involved and will be responsible along with Launceston City Council for the upgrade at this location.

Officer Comments - Robert Dobrzynski (General Manager)

Prior to the State Election discussions were undertaken with senior management at DIER and with the Liberal Party at the senior level, in relation to funding to facilitate planning for infrastructure works that would improve the capacity of the Lower Charles Street / Goderich Street and Lindsay Street intersection. With the advent of the Bunnings superstore, it was anticipated that this intersection, which is already the busiest intersection in the City, would be beyond capacity.

An undertaking was given by DIER that planning for more effective traffic management at the intersection would be undertaken as a matter of priority.

Discussions with the Honourable Peter Gutwein, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Planning and Treasurer since the State election have confirmed the State Government's commitment to developing an effective design for the intersection.

The planning that is currently being undertaken by DIER involves determining the most appropriate intersection design for the location, bearing in mind traffic volumes and adjacent land uses. These design options will then be overlayed onto the site parameters that exist to determine the nature of works that will be required to meet the appropriate service level design for the intersection.

The Council has been involved in these discussions and anticipates being further involved in future design considerations.

13.1 Notice of Motion - Alderman Sands - Lindsay and Goderich Streets Intersection...(Cont'd)

Accordingly, there should be no suggestion that concerns with the capacity of the intersection to meet traffic demand efficiently has not been given the highest priority. The General Manager has had discussions with the Secretary of DIER on an ongoing basis in relation to the matter, resulting in the commitment of resources by DIER to planning considerations for the intersection. Discussions have also been held with the Liberal Party at the most senior level prior to the State election, and subsequently with the Treasurer following the election.

DIER have advised that significant intersection improvements will involve works amounting to many \$m. The vast majority of DIER budget funding is attached to specific projects. They have indicated that discretionary expenditure is tiny and the Department does not have the flexibility or agility to respond to new developments such as Bunnings. Resourcing, planning, community consultation, land acquisition and environmental considerations requires significant funding and an extended period of time in the order of 2 years to reach a position where all relevant matters have been addressed.

State and Local Government within Tasmania encourages economic activity such as the Bunning superstore. This generally occurs with minimal consideration of developer contribution costs. Accordingly, infrastructure works such as the multimillion dollar project for the Lower Charles / Goderich Street and Lindsay Street intersection falls upon the public purse. The public purse as Aldermen would be aware is significantly constrained at both State and Federal level.

The construction of the Bunnings superstore has brought forward the need to increase the capacity of the intersection. It could be argued that even without the Bunnings development, the intersection currently reflects a number of inefficiencies which should be addressed.

Discussions with DIER and Tas Police regarding potential traffic congestion during the opening period of the Bunning superstore have resulted in a Traffic Management Plan being developed, including if necessary a change to the phasing of the traffic lights or intervention by Tas Police to manage traffic movements at the intersection.

Whilst I am happy to take advice on this matter, it is difficult to see what further could be done by the Council at this point in time.

13.1 Notice of Motion - Alderman Sands - Lindsay and Goderich Streets Intersection...(Cont'd)

Officer Comments - Harry Galea (Director Infrastructure Services)

There are 2 issues surrounding this intersection. Firstly the forecast medium term capacity limitations of the intersection given natural growth and the additional traffic generated by the Bunnings Development. Earlier forecasts indicated that the intersection will reach an inappropriate level of service within 5 years. DIER has informed Council that they initiated a project to identify the optimum intersection layout for the forecast traffic volumes. This will look at the number of lanes and configuration, signalised, roundabout etc. Initially the study will ignore the bridge/river as it is know the bridge will need to be widened/duplicated in any long-term solution.

The initial growth in visitation to the Bunnings Store during the grand opening was raised at the Launceston Traffic Committee which was attended by Tasmania Police. The Police have already listed the intersection on their operations program for monitoring and intervention should unexpected issues arise. As a matter of course the Police's experience indicates that the most efficient means to disperse traffic is to rely on the network controls within existing traffic lights. This is the option used for all major public events in Launceston including the Launceston Turf Cup. If physical intervention is required (either proactive before the grand opening or reactive subject to monitoring) to reduce traffic congestion through the intersection then the preference would be to ban both right hand turns along Goderich Street as diversion of traffic is not practical given that Tamar River bridge is at greater capacity than Charles Street Bridge at both morning and afternoon traffic peaks.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

N/A

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

N/A

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Robert Dobrzynski: General Manager

13.2 Notice of Motion - Alderman Ball - Strategic Engagement with China/Asia**FILE NO:** SF5547 / SF0175**AUTHOR:** Alderman Ball**GENERAL MANAGER:** Robert Dobrzynski (General Manager)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a Notice of Motion from Alderman Ball in relation to strategic engagement with China/Asia.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That in view of the emerging strategic opportunities and recent offers to engage with Chinese cities and the wider Asian region, Council;

1. Identifies and engages with those already involved in this space at a local and regional level with the aim of facilitating a roundtable discussion to share information on who the players are and how we might, through collaboration, leverage our collective efforts in engaging with Asia and China in particular.
2. Rapidly develops an outline strategy to guide co-ordination and engagement with opportunities in China/Asia (both Sister City approaches and other) to ensure that our resources are invested wisely, beneficial outcomes are achieved and Council is in a pro-active position driving our engagement rather than a reactive position responding to each opportunity as it arises.

And that,

The above occurs prior to any of Council's scarce resources being committed to any overseas trip.

13.2 Notice of Motion - Alderman Ball - Strategic Engagement with China/Asia...(Cont'd)

REPORT:

I believe it is time, in light of the 'Asian Century' and the opportunities presented by it for Launceston and the northern region, for LCC to take a strategic approach to engagement with Asia and the resources we expend in this area to ensure that we are aware of who all the players are who are currently working in this space in our region and to ensure our efforts;

- Utilise Council's economic / cultural / tourism development resources to engage more fully in exploring and developing relationships and opportunities with Asia.
- Identify key local and regional players who have expertise and interest in the area.
- Engage a broader cross-section of partners in exploring opportunities and challenges so that we develop a shared understanding and better relationships within a regional 'Asian network' thus easing the burden on Council to 'go it alone' and utilising expertise, enthusiasm, existing relationships and resources to get the best outcomes.

Currently we have two approaches from Chinese cities to engage in exploring/developing a relationship that may or may not become a Sister City relationship.

Before we make decisions on opportunities it would be wise to take a systems approach to the projects and look at identifying and sitting down with key players in our region to find out;

- Who has already, or is, engaging with China/Asia and at what level (education, business, culture, tourism, food and wine, diplomatic etc.)
- What resources are there to help us at a state level and what is there strategy (DEDTA, DFAT etc.)
- What appetite is there at a local/regional level to combine resources and efforts to take a collaborative approach in engaging with Asia at a regional level?
- What is the University of Tasmania's capacity and intent to engage through the North and what key assets and players could we partner with?

Through this process we could build up an 'asset register' of organisations and individuals that creates a foundation of both relationships and resources that will help us to decide where best to invest our resources.

13.2 Notice of Motion - Alderman Ball - Strategic Engagement with China/Asia...(Cont'd)

This will also assist in ensuring that we try to align as far as possible the strategic intent of our partners so that we are all aiming for similar outcomes.

We have a highly experienced local resident (Mr Adrian Wood) who has high level connections and long standing relationships with senior Chinese officials and not withstanding his key involvement and introduction to the Qingyuan offer he is also an incredibly valuable resource for advice on engagement with china.

When we look at Sister City offers we must also ask ourselves frankly *“Is a long term Sister City Relationship the best way to achieve these goals?”* or should we be moving to a more dynamic short to medium term ‘City Partnership’ – perhaps even with a number of cities, that is based on a focused educational, trade, tourism and cultural exchange over 3 years which then translates into a more organic relationship that may develop between trade partners, tourism visitors, University exchanges or cultural exchanges (i.e. between Tasdance and a foreign dance company).

We must not overlook our strong cultural assets that could provide real potential in developing partnerships. Our magnificent museum and its staff, companies such as Tasdance who might open up cultural exchanges to complement trade and tourism – all these are assets which are often accorded higher status and respect in Asian countries (particularly dance as an underpinning cultural form of expression)

These questions need to be asked and a strategy developed before we commit any more scarce dollars to an overseas visit.

I believe we need to resource this area more fully to realise the social, cultural and economic opportunities presented by the Asian century and we are better placed than almost any other city in regional Australia to do so if we seize the opportunity.

13.2 Notice of Motion - Alderman Ball - Strategic Engagement with China/Asia...(Cont'd)

None of the above will be achieved overnight however with the global economy hanging in the balance and tough times ahead it is the regional cities in Australia who are bold, innovative and strategic that will become the successful and sustainable cities that attract people to live, work, study and invest.

Let's make sure that Launceston, Tasmania tops that list.

Officer Comments - Robert Dobrzynski (General Manager)

I would refer Aldermen to two documents which I have attached in order to provide background relevant to consideration on the Notice of Motion:

- 1. The General Manager's report to the Council Meeting held on 12 May 2014 titled China Sister City Opportunity.*
- 2. The text of a communication received from Alan Campbell General Manager Sectoral and Trade Development, Tasmania Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts relating to an approached received from the Fujian Provincial Foreign Affairs office.*

Aldermen would be aware that the General Manager's report to the Council Meeting on 12th May regarding China Sister City Opportunity was withdrawn in light of the proposal received from Fujian Province, to enable full consideration of both the proposal submitted in relation to Putian City and Qingyuan City.

13.2 Notice of Motion - Alderman Ball - Strategic Engagement with China/Asia...(Cont'd)

The Council has pursued a pragmatic approach to exploring opportunities for collaboration, cross cultural exchange and trade with Asia. Aldermen would be aware that the Indonesia Consul General in Melbourne invited the Council to attend a Trade Expo in 2012 which ultimately led to senior management from one of the largest supermarket chains in Indonesia (Hero Supermarket) visiting Northern Tasmania during the Festivale celebrations and undertaking a tour of producers within the region that had been arranged by the Launceston City Council in collaboration with the State Government.

I am aware that trade from Northern Tasmanian producers to Hero Supermarkets has now commenced following this initiative by the Council. It is hoped that the volume and diversity of produce from Northern Tasmania will increase as relationships are developed between Hero Supermarket and individual producers.

In terms of exploring the potential of Asian markets to drive economic activity in northern Tasmania the Council has pursued 2 major principles:

- 1. The Council sees its role as a facilitator to explore potential for economic and social benefits to the City through intelligence gathering on appropriate regulatory, cultural and demand potential through visiting the country and undertaking discussion with key market players. The Council's facilitation role should primarily be aimed at exploring the potential for Tasmanian high quality produce to gain an opportunity for trade to niche markets within Asian countries where middle class incomes are changing consumption patterns. The ultimate result sought is engagement by producers in northern Tasmania with markets in countries visited.*
-

13.2 Notice of Motion - Alderman Ball - Strategic Engagement with China/Asia...(Cont'd)

2. *Launceston is a regional service centre for the surrounding rural areas where the majority of production is undertaken. Growth in trade with markets secured in targeted Asian localities results in increased economic activity within the City in its role as a service centre and may result in increased business investment by producers within the region which also benefits city businesses.*

The Council through its officers has undertaken extensive discussion with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Federal) and the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts (State), in addition to surrounding Councils and Northern Tasmanian Development, in order to pursue a collaborative approach to identifying development opportunities with Asian markets. Significant discussion has also occurred with producers within the region.

The General Manager is proposing to present a report to the Council in the near future recommending that the Council accept the invitation by the Mayor of Qingyuan City for a delegation of City of Launceston officials to visit the City, and also accept the invitation from the City of Putian in Fujian Province to visit. It would be anticipated that the Council delegation would visit both Cities whilst in China, for the purpose of efficiency.

After visiting both Cities in China, the Council would be in a position to consider the nature of relationship appropriate to the circumstances of both the Council and the region, with a heavy accent on exploring economic development opportunities. It is anticipated that correspondence will be received from the Premier of Tasmania inviting the Council to pursue the opportunities with Putian.

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13.2 Notice of Motion - Alderman Ball - Strategic Engagement with China/Asia...(Cont'd)

It is expected that the Council would seek to leverage the recent delegation including the Prime Minister and the Premier of Tasmania which visited China in order to explore opportunities.

It is difficult to contemplate how the Council can gain necessary intelligence on the potential of the relationship in the absence of a fact finding visit. The fact that the Council has been invited from a high government level and that the former Governor of Fujian Province is Xi Jinping is now the President of China adds gravitas to the invitation and the opportunity for the region.

To have Xi Jinping visit Tasmania after the G20 summit (refer attachment from Alan Campbell) would be a major coup for the State.

To do nothing would not seem to be a rational response to these opportunities.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

N/A


BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

N/A

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Robert Dobrzynski: General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachments provided by the General Manager:

1. General Managers report to Council Meeting 12 May 2014
 2. Written Communication received from Alan Campbell
-

[Agenda Report](#)

Council Meeting date - Monday, 12 May 2014

Item No. 19.1

TITLE: China Sister City Opportunity

FILE NO: SF0175

GENERAL MANAGER: Robert Dobrzynski

DECISION STATEMENT:

Consideration of a proposal to pursue relationships between Qingyuan City and Launceston City (and region) with a view toward exploring economic, cultural and social opportunities which demonstrably provide potential for benefit to Launceston City (and region). Such exploration may also consider the desirability of ultimately entering into a Sister City relationship with Qingyuan City.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council:

1. Responds to correspondence from the Director, Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan City Municipality, Guangdong Province People's Republic of China indicating that the Mayor of the City of Launceston would be delighted to host the Deputy Mayor of Qingyuan City and his delegation at a Mayoral Reception and meeting with Aldermen and community dignitaries, and awaits details of arrangements for the Deputy Mayor and delegation's visit to Australia.
 2. Accepts with pleasure the generous invitation by the Mayor of Qingyuan City for a delegation of City of Launceston officials to visit Qingyuan City in order to gain a better understanding of achievements that have been made within the City and to explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between the two cities.
 3. Liaises with the Director, Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan City Municipality regarding the future timing and arrangements to receive a delegation from the City of Launceston.
 4. Requests the City of Launceston Sister City Committee to consider and advise the Council upon a proposed itinerary for the delegation to visit Qingyuan City, including leveraging outcomes from the Premier's recent participation with the Prime Minister on a delegation to China and discussion with other potential stakeholders.
-

Mr R Dobrzynski (General Manager) withdrew this Item.

Janine Walter

From: Campbell, Alan (DEDTA) <Alan.Campbell@development.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 May 2014 5:21 PM
To: Bruce Williams
Cc: Robert Dobrzynski
Subject: Fujian Province enquiry

Deputy Director-General Wang Tianming is currently coordinating the provincial efforts for Governor's visit to Australia, as part of a Presidential visit. In the lead up to that visit, local governments of Fuzhou (capital of Fujian) and Putian (a coastal city to the south of Fuzhou) propose to twin up with Hobart and Launceston respectively, focusing on cooperation in the areas of vocational education, sustainable forest development, maritime preservation and development and utilization of marine resources, and tourism. We hope to have your ideas on this proposal. If it is a good idea for your side, they are thinking of teaming up a delegation to visit Tasmania and work out details with you in June.

I propose that that the Premier will write to the two Mayors regarding this proposal, to seek the views of the Councils.

As some background, Tasmania and Fujian Province have had a formal sister-state relationship since 1983, with regular exchanges over the years. Former Premier Bacon was very keen on the relationship and visited twice during the period when Xi Jinping was Governor of Fujian Province. Xi made Bacon an honorary citizen of Fujian province in 2004. Xi has of course gone on to become President of China. As you know, there has been lots of speculation about Xi visiting Tasmania later this year, at a time which coincides with the G20 Summit in Brisbane 15/16 November. His attendance at the G20 has not been confirmed as yet, nor the visit to Tasmania. Formal invitations to Xi have been made by former Premier Lara Giddings, the current Prime Minister and Premier Hodgman.

I do not know whether there is a direct relationship between between this request from Fujian and the President's visit, but I thought it important for you to have the above background to the situation.

I have copied Robert in for him information.

Regards

Alan Campbell

General Manager | Sectoral and Trade Development
Tasmanian Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts
Tel: +61 3 6165 5052 | Mobile: +61 419 507 795 | Fax: +61 3 6233 5800
Alan.Campbell@development.tas.gov.au

DIRECTORATE AGENDA ITEMS**14 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES****14.1 Segways - Use and Commercialisation****FILE NO:** SF6092**AUTHOR:** Eamonn Seddon (Tourism Manager)**DIRECTOR:** Michael Stretton (Director Development Services)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To examine the issues relating to the use and commercialisation of Segways in Launceston. Two operators are currently seeking an opportunity to operate Segways within the city.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

SPPC - 19 May 2014 - Item 14.2

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Seek expressions of interest for one operator to provide commercial Segway tours for an initial three (3) year period within the Launceston CBD, currently restricted to the council controlled public areas of:
 - City Park
 - Royal Park
 - Seaport Board Walk, and
 - Inveresk Precinct.
 2. Note that additional sites for an expanded operation may be made available to the operator during this period.
-
-

14.1 Segways - Use and Commercialisation...(Cont'd)

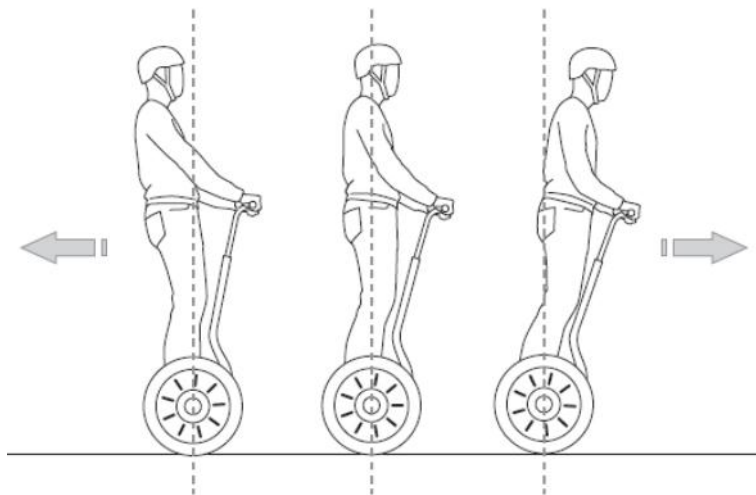
REPORT:

Background

Segway tours are now being operated in many cities throughout Europe and America. In Australia they are currently operating in public spaces in Sydney, Perth and Hobart and it should be noted that the Treetops Segway experience currently operates on private land at Hollybank 15 minutes northeast of Launceston.

The Segway

A Segway is a self-balancing, two wheeled vehicle. The rider stands on a motor platform between the two side by side wheels and moves forward and backwards by leaning to the front or the back while holding the handlebars that protrude upward from the front of the platform. To steer, the rider must move the handlebar column from side to side, or on earlier versions, rotate a collar on one of the handlebars. This is known as gyroscopic technology.



The writer's own experience of operating a Segway concludes that the machine is extremely controllable. This includes the ability to quickly come to a stationary position without dismounting the vehicle.

14.1 Segways - Use and Commercialisation...(Cont'd)

Permission to use

In Tasmania it is illegal to use a Segway on a public street, except as part of a commercial tour where Department of Infrastructure Environment and Resources (DIER) has approved and issued a Short Term Unregistered Vehicle Permit (STUVP).

A 'public street' includes anywhere the public have access which includes parks, beaches and recreational areas as well as roads and footpaths. It is for this reason that any operator must seek permission of Council as part of their DIER permit application.

If an individual uses a Segway and a STUVP has not been issued, he/she can be fined for driving an unregistered vehicle, driving without a license, and driving a vehicle that does not comply with the vehicle standards. Importantly once a permit is issued the operator is covered for compulsory Third party insurance (i.e. MAIB) in the event of an accident.

DIER will only issue a STUVP to commercial operators to use Segways for tours, and conditions will be applied to ensure that Segways are used safely. STUVP will not be issued to individuals, for work related purposes or any other reason.

DIER as part of their STUVP issue will generally apply the following conditions:
Riders must obey the conditions set out in the STUVP and follow instructions given by the tour guide. The conditions state that the rider must:

- wear a helmet
- travel under 12km/h
- be at least 12 years old
- weigh between 45 and 117kg
- have blood alcohol content of zero
- be of a height so their elbows are at least as high as the Segway's handle bar when standing on the platform

Council Permission

As previously stated a 'public street' includes anywhere the public have access. This includes from a Council perspective all parks, Inveresk precinct, Seaport board walk, the Cataract Gorge precinct.

14.1 Segways - Use and Commercialisation...(Cont'd)

If the Council is of a view to approve the use of Segways in Launceston it is recommended that permission be restricted to specific locations, these being:

- City Park
- Royal Park
- Seaport Board Walk
- Inveresk Precinct

The above public spaces are deemed to have sufficient space to allow the operation of the Segway without causing major conflict between the Segway and members of the public.

Note that the Cataract Gorge has, at this stage, been deliberately excluded, as pushbikes are already restricted from being ridden in the Gorge and therefore it is felt that Segways would be an inappropriate addition to the Gorge precinct. There is also a history of conflict between pedestrians, pushbikes and dog walkers during the tourist season along the Cataract Walkway compounded by the limited sight lines and restricted access ramps.

In line with other tourist operations it is also recommended that Council seek evidence of:

- Public Liability Insurance to \$20 million
- A comprehensive risk management plan, including specific risk assessments for each route.
- Stakeholder engagement e.g. Home Point, Seaport
- Consultation with any other existing lease or license holders impacted upon by the operation eg City Park operation alongside the 'train' ride.
- Development of a 'Code of conduct' for tour guides & participants

Number of operators

From an experiential perspective (and safety) and to allow greater opportunity of commercial success it is recommended that only one operator be given permission to operate in the above named areas. To allow this to happen, a selection process needs to be applied to prospective operators.

14.1 Segways - Use and Commercialisation...(Cont'd)

This would potentially include:

- Expression of interest notice.
- Selection criteria and weighting.
- Mandatory submission requirements in order for submission to be considered. To include items such as;
- operating hours, costs to public, comprehensive risk assessment by route & proposed license fee to be paid to Council, experience in operating similar equipment in a public environment.

Upon selection the successful operator would be issued a license to operate (subject to obtaining a DIER permit) with the requirement that evidence of relevant insurances and DIER permit be furnished prior to commencing the operation.

The license would include further conditions i.e. review periods, hours of operation, exclusion periods without penalties during events or when closed for maintenance etc.

In addition it is recommended that the initial period of operation be for three years, with annual review, to allow the commercial operation to fully establish itself.

Council would reserve the right to not renew the license or to issue multiple licenses after the initial three year period and or make any other changes it deems necessary.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Potential new business operating in the CBD.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

N/A

SOCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

14.1 Segways - Use and Commercialisation...(Cont'd)

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Launceston Strategic Tourism Plan.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

N/A

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Michael Stretton: Director Development Services

14.2 Environmental Services Department - Appointment as Authorised Officer

FILE NO: SF0113

AUTHOR: Louise Foster (Manager Environmental Services)

DIRECTOR: Michael Stretton (Director Development Services)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To appoint a new employee within the Environmental Services Department as an Authorised Officer for the purposes of various legislation and Council by-laws.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appoints the following employee referred to in column one of the schedule, as an Authorised Officer, to conduct the function and powers of various legislation listed in column two of the schedule.

Authorised Officer	Powers/Functions
Bruce Harpley Environmental Health Officer	Local Government Act 1993 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S20A Power of Entry • S237 Authentication of certain documents • S200 Abatement Notices¹ • S240 Appearance in Court Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S21 Council Officer Public Health Act 1997: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S11 Appointment as an Environmental Health Officer

14.2 Environmental Services Department - Appointment as Authorised Officer...(Cont'd)

Authorised Officer	Powers/Functions
	Food Act 2003: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S101 Appointment as Authorised Officer. Dog Control Act 2000: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S82 – Appointment as Authorised Officer• Appointment as an authorised officer under Council By-laws.

Note 1: A matter may be referred to Council for decision where an Officer is of the opinion that the decision should be made by the Council.

REPORT:

Mr Harpley has been employed in a temporary maternity leave replacement Environmental Health Officer role.

Various legislation relating to the environmental services tasks require that Council or the General Manager appoint an officer as an Authorised Officer to fulfil the powers and functions of the Acts

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

N/A

SOCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

N/A

14.2 Environmental Services Department - Appointment as Authorised Officer...(Cont'd)

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

N/A

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Michael Stretton: Director Development Services

COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday 26 May 2014

17 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

17.1 Lease - Tamar Yacht Club

FILE NO: SF0866

AUTHOR: Andrew Smith (Parks and Recreation Manager)

DIRECTOR: Harry Galea (Director Infrastructure Services)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider leasing the land situated at 11 Park Street (Folio 49784/1, 49501/1, 159106/1 and 49745/2) adjacent to Royal Park as marked on the attached map to the Tamar Yacht Club.

This decision requires an absolute majority of Council.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, in respect to leasing public land situated at 11 Park Street (Folio 49784/1, 49501/1, 159106/1 and 49745/2) adjacent to Royal Park to Tamar Yacht Club for ten years comprised of two five year options, resolves to:

- 1) advertise the proposed lease of land on the public land register for a 21 day period in accordance with S178 (4) Local Government Act 1993; and
 - 2) following receipt of public submission, prepare a report to a future Council meeting which shall include lease terms and conditions.
-

REPORT:

The Tamar Yacht Club (TYC) is a community based organisation and is the oldest yacht club in the southern hemisphere which was first formed in 1837 when the first regatta was held on the occasion of the Queen's birthday. After this event the club went on to establish a clubhouse and jetty at Park Street which resulted in a booming increase in their membership. For over fifty years Council has leased the land situated at 11 Park Street adjacent to Royal Park and adjacent to their clubrooms (as shown on Attachment 1) to the Tamar Yacht Club.

17.1 Lease - Tamar Yacht Club...(Cont'd)

In 1955 the club purchased a new clubhouse at 7 Park Street next to the slip yards which are used for storage. The club conducts training for adult and junior sailors and has a fleet of club boats for more experienced sailors to use. They also conduct inter-school team racing with Tamar sailors representing the club at the Australian Schools Team Racing Championships in recent times.

The TYC has requested that Council renew the lease of this area to enable them to continue housing large and small boats. Their proposal is for a total of ten years with intentions to invest in capital works in the slip yard of over \$60,000 in the next five years as indicated in their letter (Attachment 2).

Section 178 of the *Local Government Act 1994* requires that leases of public land that exceed five years be advertised. After the advertised comment period has expired a report will be presented to Council for consideration of comments received and if it determines to proceed with the leasing, lease terms will be considered at that time.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

There is no economic impact with this proposal.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

There is no environmental impact with this proposal.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

There is no social impact with this proposal other than to allow successful tenants to continue to provide an important recreational opportunity for Launceston.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:**Launceston Community Plan**

Preferred Future Five: Healthy and Active People - Strategy Three : Encourage physical activity

17.1 Lease - Tamar Yacht Club...(Cont'd)

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

\$3,500 per annum income for the Parks and Recreation Department budget.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

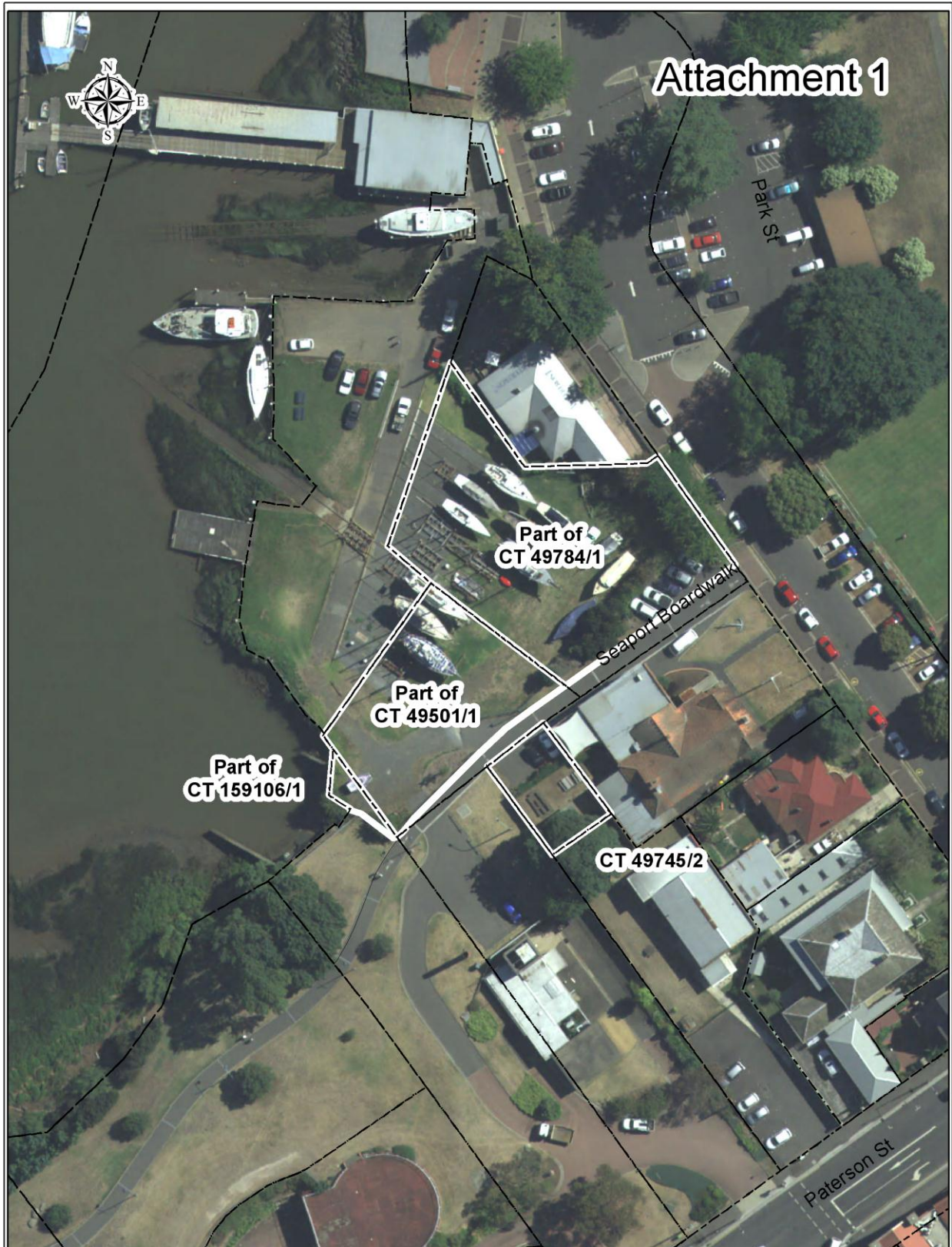
I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Harry Galea: Director Infrastructure Services

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Map - area to be leased by Tamar Yacht Club
 2. Letter from Tamar Yacht Club
-



Created: 15/5/2014 CRM

NOTE:

While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information portrayed on this plan its purpose is to provide a general indication of the location of Council services. The information provided may contain errors or omissions and the accuracy may not suit all users. A site inspection and investigation is recommended before commencement of any project based on this data. This note forms an integral part of this plan. Launceston City Council 2014

Tamar Yacht Club Lease

Scale : 1:750
(at A4)



Parks & Recreation





Attachment 2.

7 Park Street
Launceston 7250

P (03) 6331 8013
F (03) 6331 8005
E janette@tyc.asn.au
www.tyc.asn.au

8th April 2014

Att: Tricia De Leon-Hillier
Parks Lease Management Officer
Park & Recreation Launceston City Council
P.O. Box 396
LAUNCESTON 7250

FILE No.	102570 / 22298 / 22297		
EO	/	OD	Box /
RCV'D 1:1 APR 2014 LCC			
Doc No.			
Action Officer	Noted	Replied	
T DELEON-HILLIER			

Dear Tricia

The Committee of the Tamar Yacht Club hereby applies to the Launceston City Council for the renewal of the existing lease for the land covered by the following three Certificates of Title.

CT49752/2 is basically the backyard of 7 Park Street which is the TYC Clubhouse, and includes the BBQ hut known as "Herbies Hutch". This area is used for outdoor club social functions.

CT 49784/1 and CT49501/1 includes the boat Slip yard storage and work area with the main improvement consisting of a rail network used to manoeuvre boat cradles. It also includes the public foreshore access between Kings Park and Royal Park. The public access area is separated from the boat yard by a security fence.

The slip yard is also used for the storage of TYC club rescue boats and member's boats on trailers and to access the small boats rigging area and small boats launching pontoon.

The small boats area is also used by the clubs training officers in the training and assessment of members of the public when undergoing Boat licence testing on behalf of MaST, and junior members and school groups for dinghy training.

The slip cradles can handle pleasure and commercial vessels of up to 20 tonne in weight, whereas the other facility (at Tamar Marine) in the Launceston area with similar multi rail slip yard facilities can only slip vessels up to 12 tonne in weight. As the average size of pleasure vessels is increasing the demand for the larger capacity cradles TYC offers is increasing. There are no other large capacity slips on the Tamar River capable of handling recreational vessels of this size that are convenient to the services offered by local Launceston businesses

The slip yard facility is subject to flooding and the club has been proactive in foreshore maintenance to keep this area safe and tidy with regular removal of flood debris.

The Club intends to commit to Capital works schedule on the slip yard during the next 5 years and has budgeted as follows.

sailing since 1837

Regravel between all of the slip rails in 2014/2015 at an expected cost of	\$5000.00
Replace 3 slip cradles with larger cradles in 2015/2016	\$24000.00
Replace rotting timber sleepers to northern end slip rails in 2015/2016	\$12000.00
upgrade electrical supply to boat yard in 2015/2016	\$10000.00
Replace winch wire in 2016/2017	\$3000.00
Build hardstand area in S East Corner of lease area for trailer boat storage 2016/2017	\$12000.00

The Tamar Yacht Club is a community based organisation with volunteer members who are committed to providing sail training and modern sailing facilities for its junior and senior members as well as members of the public and school groups.

A renewal of the lease for 10 years by the Launceston City Council will give the club confidence in committing its member's funds to the continued upgrading of these facilities.

At our recent committee meeting the letter of rental recommendation from the Council was presented to the Committee and the lease amount of \$3,500 was felt to be fair and reasonable.

Many thanks for the opportunity to have ongoing use of this land.

Yours faithfully



DONELDA NILES

COMMODORE

19 GENERAL MANAGER**19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership****FILE NO:** SF3532**GENERAL MANAGER:** Robert Dobrzynski

DECISION STATEMENT:

Consideration of the City of Launceston's continued membership with Northern Tasmania Development.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council advises Northern Tasmania Development (NTD) in the following manner:

1. The City Council believes that it is in the best interests of the Region that a regional framework through which all Councils may collaborate within the unifying parameters of an effective and sophisticated evidence based strategic model should exist.
 2. The City Council's commitment is subject to acceptance that mature governance arrangements are required which acknowledge there will be circumstances where priority considerations for a metropolitan Council will potentially place the City Council at variance with other Council priorities within the region, and that in these circumstances the City Council reserves unambiguously the prerogative to pursue the best interests of it's residents in policy and strategic advocacy.
 3. That more consistent with the methodology used by NTD for voting arrangements, the City Council will contribute \$80,000 per annum to NTD, which it notes will represent a 22% greater annual contribution than the next highest contributing Council.
 4. With the development of the Greater Launceston Plan as the most extensive research and analysis of the region incorporating trends, a community-led vision for the City and development of a series of significant actions, the City Council believes it is now imperative that NTD establish a more relevant, evidence based strategy across the region identifying strategic projects which are prioritised on a rigorous cost / benefit basis.
-

19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership...(Cont'd)

5. The City Council will continue to pursue a leadership role in regional matters involving Northern Tasmania Development and will be proactive in seeking that the regional model for NTD incorporate the following characteristics:
- i) A capability to undertake high level research, analysis and advocacy.
 - ii) Mature governance arrangements that recognise the different policy and strategic context of the City Council compared to other Councils in the region.
 - iii) Development of a comprehensive evidence based series of strategic project priorities on a cost / benefit ratio that have sound prospects of receiving Government support, rather than a strategic process essentially based on "every Council winning a project" culture.
 - iv) A more proactive advocacy role being pursued by NTD to State and Commonwealth Governments for the benefit of the City and Region.
-

REPORT:**Introduction**

The City of Launceston has a fundamental purpose to improve the quality of life of its residents. The way in which the Council undertakes its role in meeting this obligation is multi-faceted, involving the Council in a comprehensive range of activities, programs and facility provision.

On occasions, the Council's role may include membership of organisations whose areas of responsibility though wider than just the City of Launceston, provide benefits to the Council's purpose in improving the quality of life of its residents.

In proposing membership of such organisations, the Council should ensure that its strategic intent benefits from the association.

To apply an appropriate level of due diligence, any proposals for membership should have a clearly defined, succinct objective or purpose of the membership which is sought and results in specific benefits to the strategic intent of the Council and quality of life of its residents.

19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership...(Cont'd)

In addition, to establish achievement of the objective or purpose, three measures that are clearly defined and capable of assessment should be stipulated. These measures will provide the degree of rigour required to evaluate whether the Council is receiving benefits from the association and to calculate the cost incurred to benefit received over a period.

The methodology has been utilised to undertake a review of all memberships or associations that the City of Launceston is currently engaged with and which involve the expenditure of Council funds or application of Council resources. It will further be a requirement that any future proposal to pursue memberships or associations be considered in this manner. The template for the evaluation is as follows.

Objective

A succinct statement indicating what is the purpose sought to be gained that is directly and specifically linked to the achievement of Council Plan or GLP Outcomes.

Outcomes Sought

Three separate and specific measurable statements which represent outcomes that evidence success in meeting the objective or purpose. Each of the statements must be followed by the words **Measured By:** and then the specific measure that will be applied to assess whether the outcome was achieved or not. The measures should be appropriate, practical and able to be applied cost effectively.

Northern Tasmania Development

The purpose of the Council's membership subscription should be for Northern Tasmania Development (NTD) to provide value to ratepayers of the City of Launceston through establishing an effective regional co-ordination framework determining strategic priorities within the City and Region and advocacy to the State and Federal Government and other relevant private and public sector organisations.

It is difficult to see how NTD has provided value commensurate with costs to the City of Launceston ratepayers in delivering specifically upon the Council's objectives. The voting system within NTD is currently significantly biased to smaller Councils and does not reflect the financial contribution of Council to NTD. NTD does not appear to operate at a high level of strategic perspective in "game changing" areas desperately needed within the region.

19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership...(Cont'd)

Over the past 6 years the Council has contributed \$1.1m to NTD. The Council's 2014 contribution is estimated at \$164,376. The next highest contribution to NTD is estimated at \$65,579. The City of Launceston contributes near 40% of the total annual Council contributions to NTD. For this financial contribution the Council receives one vote similar to all other 7 smaller member Councils on NTD, reflecting that unlike financial contributions to NTD which are predominantly based on a population basis, voting arrangements do not mirror this methodology. This suggests the current arrangement is not equitable.

Retained internally this level of funding could be far more effectively expended in resourcing LCC economic development initiatives arising from the Greater Launceston Plan and the City Heart Project, rather than supporting an organisation which only occasionally reflects the interests of the City of Launceston residents and where the Council's significant financial contribution largely only serves to fund the activities of the smaller Councils.

This results in the Council, in addition to the \$1.1m it has paid to NTD , undertaking expenditure, resource allocation and advocacy to ensure the City's strategic objectives are pursued with both State and Federal Governments.

It is considered that within the context of the Council's financial contribution to NTD their performance in delivering value for money outcomes to the Council should be assessed by Aldermen against the following parameters.

Objective

To represent the interests of the Launceston City Council in advocating its strategic and policy priorities and to influence significant outcomes in priority areas.

19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership...(Cont'd)

Outcomes Sought

1. Established framework of evidence based strategic and policy matters of importance within the region which reflect (inter alia) the priorities of Launceston City Council.
Measured by: Quality of research, sophistication of documentation and number of Council priorities in framework.
2. Consistently and capably pursue a proactive role in advocacy on strategic and policy priorities of the Council to the State and Federal government, LGAT and key community stakeholders.
Measured by: Significance of specific outcomes achieved, frequency and quality of advocacy.
3. Establish a unity of purpose among Councils in the region and build relationships and collaboration to influence identified stakeholders.
Measured by: Quality of relationships and collaboration established and level of support achieved for Council's priorities.

City of Launceston Financial Strategy

Aldermen would be aware that the Council is in the midst of a fundamental revision of its financial arrangements in order to ensure that the City of Launceston Strategic Financial Plan meets the multiple test of affordability, value for money and provision for increased financial contribution into high priority strategic areas for the City.

The Form and Function Review underway within the organisation addresses the areas of culture, processes, people, asset management and technology within the Councils operations with an aim towards significant reductions in recurrent budget expenditure to more affordable levels and increased non-rate revenues where this is viable.

Aldermen would be aware that the recurrent budget (2014/15) is currently part funded by atypical revenues such as waste management centre profits of \$1.6m and TasWater dividends of \$2.87m per annum.

Aldermen would also be aware that TasWater have indicated a figure of \$5.8m per annum sought from the Council as a fee for stormwater drainage services provided as part of the combined sewerage and stormwater system by TasWater. Whilst the Council is contesting the figure of \$5.8m there is no question that the City Council will need to find within its recurrent budget a significant sum of money that currently does not exist in order to make payment to TasWater for stormwater charges at a figure ultimately negotiated or arbitrated.

19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership...(Cont'd)

The Council has additional financial challenges relating to funding depreciation. Following revision of asset holdings, a far more pragmatic approach is required to ensure that service levels of priority assets owned by the Council are maintained at an appropriate level in order that current decisions of the Council do not disproportionately burden future generations of residents within the City.

The cumulative consequence of the above matters, coupled with the requirement to annually fund significant regional facilities which benefit residents of the greater City and Region outside of the City of Launceston area, yet are paid for exclusively by City of Launceston ratepayers, presents substantial challenges to the Council.

In the context of this financial environment, and with the prospect of financial support from the State Government currently appearing remote, rigorous scrutiny and hard decisions are required in relation to discretionary expenditure areas.

Aldermen should consider that this report is placed within the context of the Council's challenged financial arrangements and in an environment where capacity for the community to pay through additional rate increases is extremely limited.

Greater Launceston Plan

The Council initiated the Greater Launceston Plan (GLP) and led the process through a steering committee which included Councils within the greater Launceston area of influence (Northern Midlands, Meander Valley, West Tamar, George Town).

The Council pursued and was successful in securing funding from the Federal Government Better Cities Program for the project and also received support for the GLP from a number of stakeholders including the Premier, key State Government Departmental stakeholders and Councils in the region through NTD.

Launceston as a major regional centre has lacked a clear sense of how the City should evolve and develop in the context of the existing social and economic challenges the region faces. This lack of a clear strategic direction and unity of purpose placed the Council in a position of vulnerability in identifying and addressing high priority matters critical to the short and long term prosperity of the City.

Arguably, if NTD was pursuing its strategic mandate, a clear regional context engaged with Councils in the region through a unity of purpose would have been in place through the actions of NTD as a regional authority. This clearly has not been the case.

19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership...(Cont'd)

The GLP is the most extensive research and analysis undertaken of what is happening within the region. This is a fundamental starting point to understanding the strategic context of the region and developing specific objectives and outcomes required to address challenges and leverage comparative advantage. The GLP incorporates a community -led vision for the City and the development of a series of significant actions required to enable Launceston to realise its potential in challenging times.

Importantly, the GLP is directed to achieve 5 principal outcomes for the participating Councils and broader communities that they represent:

- To provide a unified vision and consistent policy framework to support prosperity and sustainable development for existing and future communities in the greater Launceston area;
- To provide an overarching metropolitan regional framework to coordinate planning and development in the municipalities that together make up the greater Launceston area;
- To provide a regional view of development priorities within the greater Launceston area;
- To identify key city projects to be undertaken by the participating Councils which will act as a focus for new investment and sustainable development opportunities in the greater Launceston area;
- To facilitate a consistent approach to the implementation of planning and development policy and initiatives within the greater Launceston area.

As the above principal outcomes sought from the GLP clearly indicate, the GLP seeks to establish a clear strategic planning and advocacy framework indicating priority projects and considerations required to be pursued.

The fact that the City of Launceston has worked to gain Federal Government funding for the project and contributed significant financial and resource contributions to the GLP to establish a City and Regional blueprint, whilst also contributing \$1.1m over the last 6 years to NTD presents an irony that would not be lost upon Aldermen.

Is There a Need For a Regional Body?

Much discussion has occurred over time pointing to the desire of both Federal and State Governments to deal with Local Government as regions, rather than as individual Councils.

19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership...(Cont'd)

The City of Launceston has been successful in gaining \$18.2m of Government funding in recent times by articulating a comprehensive evidence based argument pointing to the need for Government funding support on projects which provide a demonstrable significant economic and social return to the community. Furthermore, these projects are advocated strongly by the Council to both the Federal and State Government in the context of the City of Launceston's role as a major regional City both in Tasmania and from a national perspective. It is important to the prosperity of northern Tasmania and Tasmania that Launceston continues to contribute strongly to the economic prosperity of the region and State.

The Council has been proactive and omnipresent in its advocacy through the support received from State and Federal Members of Parliament.

It would appear that Northern Tasmania Development has not reached a similar level of sophistication or consistency of advocacy and relationship building with key stakeholders at the Commonwealth and State level upon which the economic and social prospects of the City and Region rely heavily.

However, notwithstanding existing performance of Northern Tasmania Development, the City Council must rationally believe that it is in the best interests of the region that a regional framework through which all Councils may collaborate within the unifying parameters of an effective and sophisticated evidence based strategic model should exist.

It is also appropriate to say that current arrangements within NTD do not approach the level of effectiveness the City of Launceston would require in the area of intergovernmental relations, advocacy, research, analysis, strategic planning and effective priority setting.

There would appear to be little doubt that short comings in current regional arrangements regarding collaboration, priority setting based on data providing a compelling evidence case and advocacy from a unity of purpose position has placed the region at a disadvantage compared to other regions within Australia in terms of intergovernmental relations. The ad-hoc nature which characterises current arrangements does not serve the region well and has led to a necessity for the City of Launceston to expend significant additional resources to advocate its own position to both the State and Federal Government, whilst still expending large sums of resources and money on Northern Tasmania Development.

19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership...(Cont'd)

Whilst the success of other regional arrangements are often highlighted as a benefit of regional collaboration, it should be clearly indicated that other regions within Australia are no longer characterised by a multiplicity of small Local Government units. Local Governments in other regional areas in Australia have been rationalised into larger, better resourced and more effective Local Government units pursuing more contemporary organisational models more conducive to regional collaboration. The fact that this has not occurred in Tasmania (yet?) places the Region and State at a major disadvantage.

However, the reality is the Local Government environment within northern Tasmania exists within the circumstances it now finds itself. Whilst it could be argued that the principal beneficiaries of regional collaboration would be the smaller Local Government units provided with access to a better resourced City of Launceston and in light of the current arrangement whereby a disproportionate financial contribution is provided by the City of Launceston, all Councils should be pursuing a regional framework with governance arrangements, funding requirements and resourcing which provides mutual benefits and positions the region appropriately for effective intergovernmental relations.

While current arrangements fall short of this mark, the City of Launceston should continue its leadership role in achieving a paradigm shift towards regional arrangements which deliver more effective outcomes.

It should be indicated that the City of Launceston has consistently pursued a leadership role in regional matters involving Northern Tasmania Development. The Council has been a proactive and strategic participant in matters before NTD and has led discussions and debate on a range of matters that has assisted a far more mature and robust debate between Council members of the NTD.

A preferred regional model for NTD from the City of Launceston's perspective should incorporate the following characteristics:

1. A capability to undertake high level research, analysis and advocacy.
 2. Mature governance arrangements that acknowledge there will be circumstances where priority considerations for a metropolitan Council will potentially place the City Council at variance with other Council priorities within the Region and that, in these circumstances, the City Council reserves unambiguously the prerogative to pursue the best interests of its residents in policy and strategic advocacy.
 3. Development of a comprehensive evidence based series of strategic projects prioritised on a cost / benefit ratio that have sound prospects of receiving Government support, rather than a strategic process essentially based on "every Council winning a project" culture.
-

19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership...(Cont'd)

4. A consistent methodology to be applied to funding sought from membership subscriptions and voting rights, reflecting equity, rather the current arrangements which are based on contradictory methodology where in terms of financial contribution the basis is predominately population and in regard to voting rights all Councils receive one vote.

Proposed Arrangements

Whilst justification could be put forward that the funding the Council currently provides each year to NTD could be more effectively spend on additional resources within the Council to implement Greater Launceston Plan and **City Heart** project outcomes, it is acknowledged the City of Launceston has regional obligations by virtue of its status as a major regional City. In the event that the City of Launceston withdrew from NTD entirely, the remaining regional arrangement would be greatly diminished in status and influence on Commonwealth and State funding and policy arrangements. This would be an undesirable outcome and not in the best interests of the region as a whole.

Accordingly, it is proposed that the City of Launceston continue its membership of Northern Tasmania Development based upon halving its financial contribution to a figure of \$80,000 per annum. This annual membership figure would mean that the contribution made by the City of Launceston to NTD would still be 22% (West Tamar Council contribution proposed 2014 \$65,579) greater than the next highest Councils contribution to NTD. Such an arrangement would be more compatible with a voting entitlement which sees each Council equal, notwithstanding financial contribution made.

Capping the City of Launceston contribution to NTD at \$80,000 per annum would also reflect the resources applied to government advocacy to both State and Federal Governments by the City of Launceston in its own right and the major commitment made by the City of Launceston to establish the Greater Launceston Plan giving unprecedented access to Councils within the Launceston statistical district to a comprehensive suite of data analysis and strategic objective setting.

It is considered in all the circumstances that the proposed arrangements would be a more equitable outcome for residents of the City of Launceston Council area.

19.1 Northern Tasmania Development Membership...(Cont'd)

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Consideration contained in the Report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

N/A

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Consideration contained in the Report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

2013/14 Annual Plan
Priority Area 3: Social and Economic Environment
Priority Area 5: Governance Services


BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Consideration contained in the Report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Robert Dobrzynski: General Manager

19.2 Disposal of an interest in land -Drainage Easement - Lindsay Street**FILE NO:** SF4199 25803**AUTHOR:** Robert Holmes (Property Coordinator)**GENERAL MANAGER:** Robert Dobrzynski (General Manager)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider disposal of an interest in land

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

NA

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council grant a drainage easement in favour of Bunnings Properties Pty Ltd to benefit part of 78 Lindsay Street shown as lot 1 on the unregistered plan of survey prepared by Michael John Ward dated 8 November 2013. The easement is to have an area approximately of 142m² burdening Certificate of Title 127765 folios 1 and 2 generally in the location shown by red hatch on the plans marked attachment 1 and 2.

The consideration for the grant of easement is to be the sum of \$1,400 plus gst. The applicant is to pay for all survey, legal, valuation, transfer and registration fees.

REPORT:

The subdivision of land and development of the Bunnings complex in an existing suburb required assessment of the capacity of the existing infrastructure to service the development.

19.2 Disposal of an interest in land -Drainage Easement - Lindsay Street...(Cont'd)

In particular the property is located within the "combined sewer and drainage" catchment area under the control of Tasmanian Sewer and Water Corporation. The Bunnings complex will occupy a site in excess of 5 hectares in area. The existing combined sewer is not designed to accommodate the significant quantity of stormwater generated from the roof and paved areas within the site. The solution approved by Tasmanian Sewer and Water Corporation was for the developer to provide a pumped private stormwater system discharging directly into the North Esk River. The logical and most practicable alignment requires a drainage easement to enable the private stormwater pipe to pass through land owned by Council now utilised for the purposes of flood protection. When constructing the new concrete flood levee the Launceston Flood Authority made provision for the penetration through the levee to be accommodated in such way as to ensure that the integrity of the levee was not compromised. Councils Parks and Recreation officers have advised that the alignment will not affect the Canary Island Palm trees located on the corner.

Section 177 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to obtain valuation advice when disposing of land or an interest in land. That advice is that the interest of drainage easement is valued at the sum of \$1400 plus gst, and, on the basis that the applicant pays all costs associated with the creation, valuation, sale and transfer of the easement interest.

A decision by Council under Section 177 of the Local Government Act must be by absolute majority.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Neutral as applicant is to meet costs

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

NA

SOCIAL IMPACT:

NA

19.2 Disposal of an interest in land -Drainage Easement - Lindsay Street...(Cont'd)

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

NA


BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

NA

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

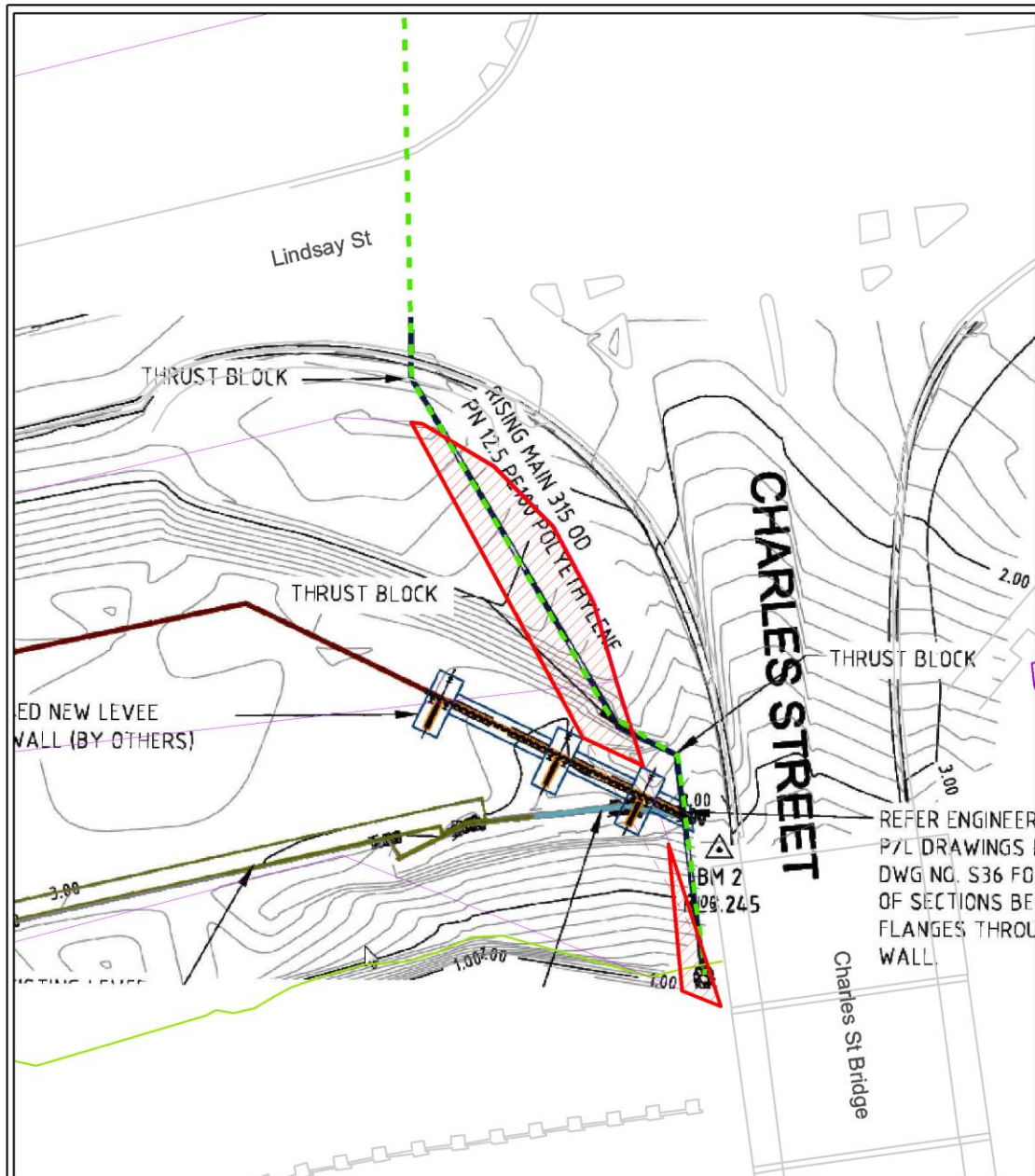
The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Robert Dobrzynski: General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Engineering design showing proposed alignment and easements.
 2. Location of easements shown on aerial image.
-

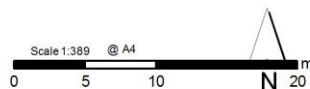


Drainage easement 126m²+/- and 16m² +/-

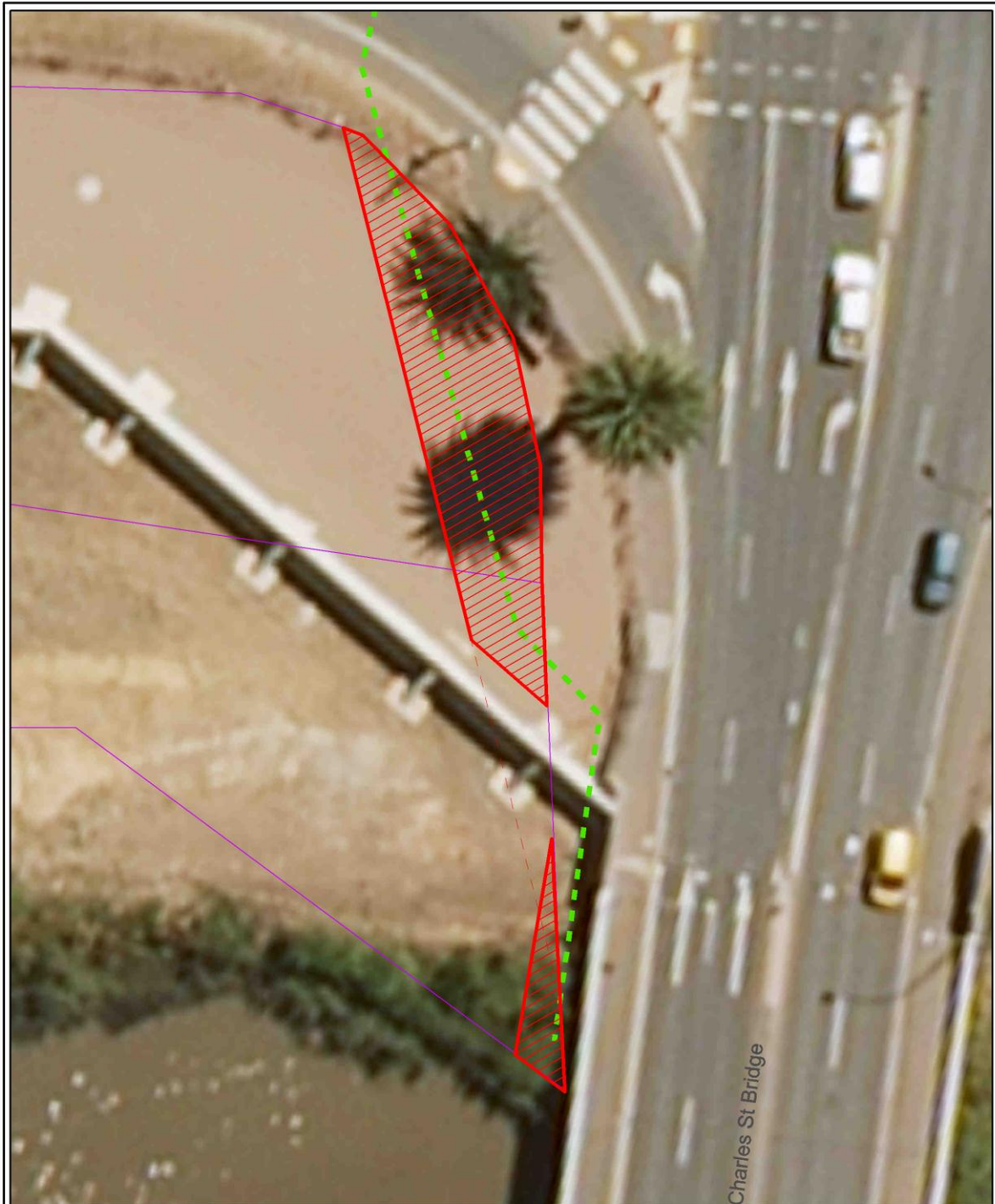


Stormwater rising main (private)

Printed: 2013



Spatial Information

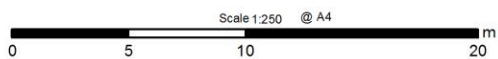


Drainage Easement 126m²+/- and 16m²+/-



Stormwater rising main (private)

Printed: 2014



Spatial Information 

19.3 Engaging with China Opportunities**FILE NO:** SF0175**GENERAL MANAGER:** Robert Dobrzynski

DECISION STATEMENT:

Consideration of a proposal to pursue relationships between Qingyuan City, Guangdong Province and Putian City, Fujian Province, People's Republic of China and Launceston City (and region) with a view toward exploring economic, cultural and social opportunities which demonstrably provide potential for benefit to Launceston City (and region). Such exploration may also ultimately consider the desirability of entering into a Sister City relationship with Qingyuan City and Putian City.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council:

- A. (1) Responds to correspondence from the Director, Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan City Municipality, Guangdong Province People's Republic of China indicating that the Mayor of the City of Launceston would be delighted to host the Deputy Mayor of Qingyuan City and his delegation at a Mayoral Reception and meeting with Aldermen and community dignitaries, and awaits details of arrangements for the Deputy Mayor and delegation's visit to Australia.
 - (2) Accepts with pleasure the generous invitation by the Mayor of Qingyuan City for a delegation of City of Launceston officials to visit Qingyuan City in order to gain a better understanding of achievements that have been made within the City and to explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between the two cities.
 - (3) Liaises with the Director, Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan City Municipality regarding the future timing and arrangements to receive a delegation from the City of Launceston.
-

19.3 Engaging with China Opportunities...(Cont'd)

- B. (1) Responds to the correspondence from the Premier indicating that:-
- i) The Council would be pleased to meet with a delegation from Fujian Province proposed to visit Tasmania in June or July of this year.
 - ii) Subject to discussions with the delegation, the Council would be prepared to send a delegation of City of Launceston officials to visit Putian City to explore opportunities for co-operation and collaboration between the two cities.
 - iii) Whilst the City of Launceston delegation would be pleased to enter into discussion with officials of Putian City in relation to a formal letter of Agreement / Intent, Friendship City arrangement or Sister City arrangement, a decision on the matter will be required from the Council.
 - iv) The City of Launceston would be delighted to accept an invitation from the Premier to attend State functions and discussions in the event the President of China Xi Jinping and the Governor of Fujian Province visit Tasmania.
- C. Requests the City of Launceston Sister City Committee to consider and advise the Council upon a proposed itinerary for the delegation to visit Qingyuan City and Putian City, including leveraging outcomes from the Premier's recent participation with the Prime Minister on a delegation to China and discussion with other potential stakeholders.
-

REPORT:**Engaging with China Opportunities****1. Qingyuan City, Guangdong Province**

I have attached as Appendix 1 correspondence from Mr Adrian Wood to Council dated 20th November 2013 which has initiated consideration upon the benefits that may add value to Launceston City from an international Sister City relationship with Qingyuan.

Rather than repeat here the matters raised in the correspondence from Mr Wood the attachment clearly establishes the scope, opportunity and protocols of a Sister City relationship within China, particularly in the context of the existing relationship with Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province, Northern China. Mr Wood is obviously well credentialed and experienced from his former roles to provide comprehensive advice to Aldermen on these matters. Moreover the attachment refers.

19.3 Engaging with China Opportunities...(Cont'd)

I have also attached additional correspondence (Appendix 2, Appendix 3 and Appendix 4) that has passed between the Council and Mr Wood, Mr Wood and the Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan Municipality and finally, a copy of correspondence from the Mayor to the Bureau of Qingyuan City. These documents provide a context to discussions that have occurred to date and detail the specific nature of both Qingyuan City and its comparison to Launceston City and region.

However, I would specifically refer to Appendix 5, attached, which is a copy of correspondence recently received by the Mayor from Li Sizhen, Director, Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan City Municipality, Guangdong Province People's Republic of China. This correspondence indicates that the Deputy Mayor of Qingyuan City is planning to lead a delegation and visit Australia this year, with a date yet to be determined. The Director undertakes to inform Council of the details in advance in order that a meeting may be arranged with the Mayor. Additionally, the Director, entrusted by the Mayor of Qingyuan City has invited a delegation of Launceston City Council officials to visit Qingyuan City in order to gain a better understanding of both the achievements that have been made within the City and to explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between the two Cities.

2. Putian City, Fujian Province

I have attached as Appendix 6 a communication received from Alan Campbell General Manager Sectoral and Trade Development, Tasmanian Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts regarding an approach by the Fujian Provincial Foreign Affairs Office regarding the possibility of a Sister-City relationship between Launceston and Putian. As the communication from Mr Campbell indicates, Tasmania and Fujian Province have had a formal Sister-State relationship since 1983 with regular exchanges over the years. It is also noted that the current President Xi Jinping was Governor of Fujian Province and established a very strong relationship with former Premier Bacon.

It is understood that Xi is proposed to attend the G20 Summit in Brisbane on 15 & 16 November. There is speculation regarding Xi visiting Tasmania in conjunction with his attendance at the Summit. I understand that formal invitations have been extended to Xi by former Premier Lara Giddings and the current Premier Will Hodgman as well as the current Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

In the event that the Council is disposed to further pursuing exploring the potential of a relationship with Putian, it is understood that a delegation will visit Tasmania to discuss arrangements in June or July of this year.

19.3 Engaging with China Opportunities...(Cont'd)

It is my understanding that the Premier Will Hodgman will write to the Lord Mayor of Hobart regarding a relationship with the City of Fuzhou, the Capital of Fujian and to the Mayor of the City of Launceston regarding a relationship with Putian, a coastal City to the south of Fuzhou.

My advice is that the appropriate protocol in regard to the approach by the Fujian Provincial Foreign Affairs Office would be as follows:

- Invite a delegation from Fujian Province to visit Tasmania in order to undertake discussions with the Hobart City Council and the Launceston City Council.
- The Council would then visit Putian in Fujian Province with a view to discussing a letter of agreement / intent, a Friendship City arrangement or a Sister City arrangement. It should be noted that no decision would be taken on this matter subject to a further report and decision by the Council.
- The delegation from Fujian is anticipated in June or July, the G20 Summit is proposed to be held on 15 and 16 November. The President of China Xi Jinping would potentially visit Tasmania after the Summit accompanied by the Governor of Fujian. These matters are yet to be confirmed.
- The status of this matter is, I am advised, reflected by the fact that Governors of Provinces in China cannot travel without approval from the highest authority.
- The aforementioned protocol provides assurances for the City of Launceston that any arrangements regarding a relationship with the Council must be workable for the City of Launceston.

3. Council Consideration

The Council has adopted a pragmatic approach in terms of its consideration of Sister City relationships in recent times. This is appropriate in that opportunities to pursue Sister City relationships should be firmly based upon viable potential to gain economic, social and cultural benefits that demonstrably progress the prosperity of Launceston City and its residents.

Northern Tasmania has a number of food production attributes that may have currency for promotion through cooperative dialogue with Qingyuan City and Putian City. Some of these include:

- Aquaculture production
 - Dairy production
 - Agricultural production
-

19.3 Engaging with China Opportunities...(Cont'd)

All with a worldwide reputation for high quality. Whilst Northern Tasmania would not produce the scale of production to enable it to compete within commodity markets in China, the high quality niche markets sector would be attractive to the rapidly increasing middle class of China, no less so in Qingyuan City and Putian City.

Tourism Tasmania is also reporting increased interest from Asia for travel to Tasmania. In this regard, Launceston and Northern Tasmania appears to be experiencing an increasing influx of Chinese and other Asian tourists. The attractions of Launceston and Northern Tasmania would appear to include:

- The Chinese history in the region
- Barnbougle and Lost Farm world class golf courses
- The fresh air, cleanliness and amenity of the City and region
- The many natural features that serve as attractions.
- Good accessibility from both Sydney and Melbourne through airport services

Similar to the invitation Launceston City Council received from the Indonesian Consul General in Melbourne to attend the Trade Expo in October 2012, these opportunities can only be appropriately assessed by being explored through accepting invitations for a delegation to attend Qingyuan City and Putian City.

Attendance by delegation would achieve the level of face to face "good-faith" which is ultimately paramount to progressing productive dialogue, cooperative arrangements and exploring the potential for economic, social and cultural ties through the promotion of the "Launceston and Northern Tasmanian economic, social and cultural offering".

It is considered that the Council should visit Qingyuan City following the invitation from the Mayor and Putian City following the approach by the Fujian Provincial Foreign Affairs Office, in order to explore the prospects for productive outcomes for Launceston and Northern Tasmania.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Consideration contained in Report

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

N/A

19.3 Engaging with China Opportunities...(Cont'd)

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Consideration contained in Report

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Annual Plan 2013/14

Priority Area: 3 Social and Economic Environment

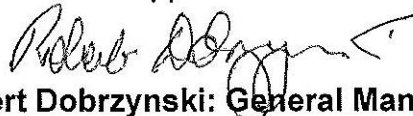
BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Financial provision would be required within Council Budgets to finance a delegation to Qingyuan City and Putian City.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Robert Dobrzynski: General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Appendix 1: Letter from Mr Adrian Wood to Launceston City Council dated 20/11/13.
 2. Appendix 2: Letter to Mr Adrian Wood from Launceston City Council dated 19/12/13.
 3. Appendix 3: Letter to Mr Adrian Wood from Qingyuan City dated 14/01/14.
 4. Appendix 4: Letter to Mr Li Sizhen, Qingyuan City from Launceston City Council dated 03/03/14.
 5. Appendix 5: Letter from Mr Li Sizhen, Qingyuan City to Launceston City Council dated 10/04/14.
 6. Appendix 6: Email received from Alan Campbell, General Manager, Sectoral and Trade Development, Tasmania Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts.
-

Adrian Wood

28 Walden Street
Newstead TAS 7250
Tel: +61 3 6343 1997
Mobile: +61 414 902 450
Email: adriananddianne@gmail.com

20 November 2013

Mayor Albert van Zetten
Launceston City Council
Town Hall,
St John Street
Launceston

Your worship

I would like present to you an opportunity of a new sister city in China for Launceston.

I have recently moved to Launceston following retirement from the NSW Government (NSW Trade & Investment in Sydney). For the last 6 years of my career I was responsible for managing the NSW Sister State relationships in China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, USA and Europe.

The most active relationship for NSW was with Guangdong Province, PRC which was signed in 1979. In managing this agreement I developed close links with the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office (GDAFO). Following the establishment of NSW / Guangdong relations, Sydney and Guangzhou became sister cities in 1987. The GDAFO is interested in other cities in Guangdong Province establishing sister city relations in Australia. In this regard GDAFO has asked me to advise on a possible sister city for Qingyuan in Tasmania.

Attached is further information on this opportunity.

My first preference is for Launceston to investigate this opportunity. I am aware that Launceston has an existing sister city in China – Taiyuan and that this has been in place since 1995. However I have been advised that the PRC Central Government permits more than one city to have the same international sister city relationship. In other words 2 cities in China could have a sister city relationship with Launceston.

I have recently been appointed to the Board of Tourism Northern Tasmania, in which capacity I am keen to work towards increasing visitor numbers to our region from China. This is a further reason for presenting this opportunity to Launceston City.

I have recently discussed this matter with Alderman Tony Peck who recommended that I present this proposal to you in this manner. I appreciate that it will take some time for Council to consider this matter. I will be happy to provide further information if required and or meet with relevant Council representatives to discuss this opportunity.

Please note however that will be interstate 23 November / 3 December.

Yours faithfully



Adrian Wood

CC: The General Manager & Aldermen
Launceston City Council

China Sister City Opportunity

The Opportunity

Qingyuan City in Guangdong Province, Southern China is interested in establishing sister city relations with an Australian city. Tasmania has been identified as a State in which to explore possibilities.

The opportunity came via the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office (GDFAO) in Guangzhou and was received by Adrian Wood, Former Senior Manager, International Business Relations, NSW Trade & Investment (NSW State Government Agency).

Background

GDFAO is the government organisation in charge of the foreign affairs of Guangdong Province and operates under the direction of Guangdong Provincial People's Government. GDFAO also represents the PRC Central Government on all foreign affairs matters in Guangdong – eg it operates a Protocol Division which manages the relationship with the foreign missions based in Guangzhou (the provincial capital).

The International Relations Division of GDFAO is responsible for the activities relating to foreign cities and regions that have relationships and cooperation links with Guangdong Province.

NSW and Guangdong have had a sister state / province relationship since 1979. It was the first such agreement between an Australian State and a Province of China and Guangdong's first international agreement.

Sydney and Guangzhou subsequently became sister cities in 1987.

Note Queensland and Guangdong have signed a cooperation agreement – similar but not a sister state agreement.

Adrian Wood managed the NSW / Guangdong relationship during his time with NSW Trade & Investment.

Qingyuan Profile:

See attached profile provided by GDFAO –English translation by GDFAO.

Considerations:

- Launceston and Taiyuan established a sister city relationship in 1995. Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province, northern China.
- The Chinese Central Government permits more than one city to have the same international sister city relationship. In other words 2 cities in China could have a sister city relationship with Launceston.

Action:

- Submission to Launceston CC
- Response to GDFAO

Soaring Qingyuan

Qingyuan is located in midnorthern Guangdong with a population of 4,090,000 and land area of 19,200 km². It is the biggest prefecture-level city in Guangdong and a major centre of ethnic minorities. It administers Gaoxin district, Qingcheng district, Fogang county, Qingxin county, Lianshan Chuang and Yao Autonomous County, Liannan Yao Autonomous County and Yangshan county. It also governs Yingde city and Lianzhou city.

Qingyuan is endowed with favorable geographic location and convenient traffic condition. It is situated at the juncture of Guangdong, Guangxi and Hunan Province, so it is known as "the hub of the three provinces and the fortress of the North River". Located within the "an hour life circle" of the Pearl River delta, it is only 50km, 30km, 200km away from Guangzhou, the Baiyun International Airport, Hong Kong and Macao respectively. The Beijing-HongKong-Macao freeway, Guangzhou-Qingyuan freeway, Qingyuan-Lianzhou freeway, Beijing-Guangzhou railway, Wuhan-Guangzhou high-speed failway and the 107 national highway runs through the whole city. Guangzhou-Lechang freeway and the Erlian Haote-Guangzhou freeway are being planned and constructed. The City Light Rail will further make Qingyuan an important economic corridor connecting the Pearl River Delta and the inland market.

Qingyuan is the major grain area in Guangdong province and the export base of timber-producing, water-maintaining forests, emerging sericulture, fruit, tea, sugarcane, tobacco, herbs and anti-season vegetable. The bamboo shoots, spotted-brown chicken, black bristle geese, Yingde black tea and Lianzhou white tea are famous both at home and abroad.

Being a well-known tourist resort of south China, Qingyuan is a beautiful place which has a lot of scenic spots. The city has a number of titles, such as the excellent Chinese tourist city, the hometown of drifting, hot spring, dragon boating, chicken, black tea, cristobalite, hemp bamboo in China, as well as the "City of four-wheel drive • City of cross-country drive", "Qingyuan Hot spring Drifting - one of the top ten European favorite China's scenic spots", "the best city for living and developing in the eyes of Hong Kong, Macao and overseas Chinese", "China's most livable city", "the hometown of the renewable copper in China". With 1 national tourism county, 3 provincial tourism counties and 10 national 4A level scenic spots, Qingyuan city has the most 4A level scenic spots in Guangdong.

In recent years, Qingyuan has been sticking to a strategy of constructing "green economy, Lingnan livable city, Southern China leisure center", and has made remarkable achievements in promoting the construction of industrial park, industrialization of agriculture and development of city character and human-oriented management. The city's GDP exceeded 100 billion yuan, entering the "hundreds of billions Club" ranking. The per capita GDP exceeded 4,000 U.S. dollars, surpassing the national average. The total output value of industrial enterprises above a designated size has exceeded 300 billion yuan, and the local general budget revenue exceeded 7 billion. The city has created an economic and social development miracle.

Qingyuan actively explore innovative policies, create favorable environment and intensifies efforts for development and unswervingly focus on introducing projects, developing industries and improving industrial parks and the quality of services. With its economy continuing to grow rapidly and comprehensive economic strength increasing substantially, Qingyuan has become one of the top ten industrial cities of Guangdong, also one of the top 100 cities in China of comprehensive strength. Compared to 2005, the local general budget

revenue of 2010 increased by 4.7 times with an average annual increase of 40.6%. In addition, GDP grew by 1.9 times with an average annual increase of 23.9%. The added value of the industrial enterprises above a designated size increased by 5.5 times with an average annual increase of 45.3%. Investment in fixed assets grew by 3.4 times with an average annual increase of 34.4%. The total volume of retail sales of consumption goods grew by 1.8 times with an average annual growth of 23%. The actual utilization of foreign investment grew by 82.6% with an average annual growth of 12.8%. The total value of exports grew 1.1 times with an average annual increase of 15.6%. In terms of total economic output, its ranking among the 21 cities of Guangdong that are of or above the prefecture-level elevated dramatically. From 2005 to 2010, its ranking of GDP rose from 15th to 12th, and the local general budget revenue climbed from the 15th place to 10th. The above-scale industrial added value rose up 6 places from 13th to 7th and the investment in fixed assets increased 2 places from eight to six. The total volume of retail sales of consumption goods rose up 4 places from 18th to 14th position; the total value of exports rose up 1 place from 14th to 13th, and the actual utilization of foreign capital rose up 1 place from 11th to 10th. In the "Urban Competitive Power Blue Book" released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 2010, Qingyuan City was listed as one of the ten cities that have maintained stable growth for five consecutive years, ranking No. 2. It is ranked No. 5 on overall growth competitiveness, being the only city of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

Qingyuan has achieved sound and rapid economic development through paying equal attention to economic development and transformation of economic pattern. In accordance with the strategy of "three circles and four zones", Qingyuan pushes forward the planning of major function oriented zone, enhances the development of the southern region, focuses on the development of the central region, accelerates the development of the northern region and formulates *Qingyuan Planning and Implementation Program on the Major Function Oriented Zone (2010-2020)*. Vigorously enforcing the regional development strategy, Qingyuan increases support for the northern area and ethnic minority area in policies, capital, projects and talents, achieves coordinated development among different areas of the city and realizes double-digit growth rate in recent years. Qingyuan integrates urban and rural development and promotes the construction of new rural areas to bring about remarkable changes. Qingyuan further promotes the "double shift" and formulate an idea of "undertaking the business of the Pearl River Delta, attracting investment from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, exploring opportunities in the neighboring provinces and the whole world" to attract investment. Since 2006, the city has introduced 2816 projects with total planned investment and actual investment of 359.2 billion yuan 97.76 billion yuan respectively. The introduction of Yunnan Copper, Dongfeng well-off, Conch Cement, Mengniu Dairy, Wong Lo Kat herbal tea companies and the other famous companies has greatly accelerated development pace of the city

Qingyuan vigorously steps up the construction and industrialization of industrial parks. In recent years, it successful established four major industrial parks—Foshan (Qingyuan) Industrial Transfer Park, Foshan Chancheng (fresh) Industrial Transfer Park, Overseas Chinese Industrial Park, Industrial Park and a number of specialized industrial park. Foshan (Qingyuan) Industrial Transfer Park is among the first group of demonstration industrial transfer park of Guangdong province. In 2010, the four industrial parks has introduced 90 projects with total investment of 12.91 billion yuan and output value of 9.89 billion yuan. Qingyuan explore innovative development strategy for the industrial parks and built up Guangdong Shunde (Yingde) Industrial Park, creating new experience for economic cooperation among different regions of Guangdong province. Qingyuan actively advances

the formation of industrial clusters for copper, ceramic, cement, refrigeration, electronics and chemical industries and has created two provincial industrial cluster upgrade demonstration zone. Qingyuan assists the development of private economy, realizing added value of 49 billion yuan which was 2.2 times that of 2005. Qingyuan built industrial zones for crystal candy orange and other four specialties, established four bases for Chinese herbal medicines and other products and introduced 98 leading agricultural enterprises above the city level. 178 agricultural organization achieved an annual sales of 6.92 billion yuan and mobilized 359,000 rural households, increasing the average annual household income by 3966 yuan. Agricultural economy continued to grow rapidly. In 2010, the added value of the primary industry registered an average annual growth of 5.2% as compared with that of 2005. Through actively stimulating consumption, in the past five years, the sales of commercial residential building increased 1.8 times, up by 22.9% on average per year. Tourists received increased 1.2 times, achieving an annual growth of 16.3%. The total revenue of tourism increased 2.3 times, up by 27.2%. In 2010, Qingyuan received 21.69 million tourists, exceeding 20 million for the first time, constituting an increase of 27.2%. Tourism revenues increased by 44.4% to 10.84 billion yuan, exceeding 10 billion yuan for the first time. Qingyuan has been vigorously advocating innovation and has set up two provincial small and medium enterprises innovation and industrialization demonstration bases. Two companies won the title of "most independently innovative enterprise in China" and two trademarks were awarded "China's well-known trademark". Currently, the city has 29 national high-tech enterprises, 42 high-tech products and 112 famous brands (trademarks) in total. In the "2010 China Economic Development Forum", Qingyuan was awarded the "2010 China's most innovative city".

Qingyuan has put great efforts to strengthen infrastructure and the development capacity. In the past five years, it has invested more than 80 billion yuan in building a number of important traffic projects, like the Qinglian Highway, Guang-Qing Highway (Qingyuan), the Wuhan-Guangzhou high-speed rail (Qingyuan), the Fengcheng Bridge, the sister bridge of the North River Bridge. It is the first mountainous city of Guangdong that has built highway to connect counties (city) and townships. Till the end of 2010, the city's highway mileage had reached 18139.5 km, 7399.8 km more than that of 2005. It accelerates and enhances the level of urbanization through carrying out ten key urban construction projects at one time and improving urban outlook, lighting, greening and sanitation conditions. As a result, the infrastructure of urban areas and counties (cities, districts) are significantly enhanced, comprehensive service capabilities greatly improved and construction land area considerably expanded. In 2010, areas of 56.8 square kilometers finished construction, 1.6 times that of 2005. The real estate industry maintains sustainable and sound development. During the "Eleventh Five-Year" period, the accumulative investment totaled 42 billion yuan, an areas of 9.06 million square meters was constructed and urban and rural per capita residential space reached 30.7 square meters and 28.7 square meters respectively. A large number of luxurious residential areas have been built, such as Bigui Park, Meilin Lake, Lion Lake, Golden Bay etc. As a result of its vigorous promotion of population concentration, urbanization rate increased by 34.9%. Qingyuan has made great efforts to modify the administrative mechanism for urban planning and construction, implement thoroughly the urban cleaning project, environment restoration project and other projects to enhance the level of city management and improve urban environment. In 2009, Qingyuan City has got the title of "China's top ten most promising city" and "China's top ten green cities".

Qingyuan vigorously strengthen culture construction to enhance its cultural soft power. To intensify its construction of public cultural service system, Qingyuan continues to improve its

cultural venues and other infrastructure facilities. Its film projection work in the rural areas is in the forefront of the province, and the farmhouse study construction has covered all administrative villages 5 years ahead of schedule. Qingyuan also focuses on establishing culture brands. It has not only been awarded the "Hometown of Chinese drifting", the "Hometown of Chinese hot spring" and other national brands, but also has witnessed the elevation of the reputation of its Lianzhou Annual International Photograph Exhibition, Yingde cristobalite cultural festival, Yangshan Quad Bike Festival and Liannan Yao Culture and Art Festival. It has made solid progress in improving these cultural industries. To actively deepen cultural reform, Qingyuan set up a minority's songs and dances company. To vigorously promote the development of education, it formulated the "Long-term Education

Reform and Development Plan in Qingyuan (2010-2020)". To increase investment in education, Qingyuan appropriates 40% of the transfer payments from the provincial government and over 10% of increase in the fiscal revenues of the city and county for educational usage. During the past five years, the high school places have increased by 24100 and the vocational (including mechanics) places grew by 45500. Qingyuan has made remarkable achievements in education with the Qingcheng District becoming the first provincial strong district in education outside the Pearl River Delta region and the Fogang County being the first strong county in education in Guangdong Province. Moreover, having reached a gross senior middle school enrollment rate of 90.64% in 2010, it has successfully universalized the senior secondary education a year ahead of time.

Sticking to the principle of people-oriented, Qingyuan actively develops various social and livelihood undertakings and increases the financial input in people's livelihood. During the "Eleventh Five-Year-Plan" period, Qingyuan invested 21.13 billion yuan in total in improving people's livelihood. The investment amounted to 6.269 billion yuan in 2010, increasing 21.4%. Qingyuan earnestly carried out the work on employment and reemployment. In the past five years, the number of new employment added up to 30.4 million, surplus labor transfers reached 624,000 man-times and 14.6 million rural labors received training for improving skills. Meanwhile, Qingyuan earnestly implements minimum social security policy and includes those indigent families with per capita income less than 1,500 yuan into its relief program. It also expands the coverage of assistance to the students in poverty. In recent four years, the City granted student aid of 138 million yuan which benefited over 130,000 students.

Qingyuan formulated the implementation measure on the pension system of the farmers who lost their land and conducted the new type of rural old age insurance pilot program to effectively expand the coverage of social insurance. It increased the investment in public health to speed up its development. Since 2007, the municipal government has appropriated 150 million yuan for the construction of sanitary facilities. Through enhancing the construction of rural health centers and community hospitals, Qingyuan continuously improves the medical conditions of the grass roots. In 2009, the medical and health organizations increased by 31% and the number of health and technical staff grew by 35% as compared with that of 2005. To earnestly promote the optimization and integration of health resources, Qingyuan formally put into use Qingyuan People's Hospital. In addition, it vigorously advances the new rural cooperative medical care. As a result, 98% of the rural residents have participated in it, realizing full coverage and effectively easing the burden of farmers. By September 2010, Qingyuan has reimbursed the farmers joining in this program for 1.107 billion yuan, benefiting 6.6 person-times. Meanwhile, it deepened the reform on health care system, implemented the basic medical system in an all-round way and stepped

up the construction of public health care system to safeguard the life security of the people. On the issue of poverty alleviation and development, Qingyuan made great efforts to ensure the benefits can go to every household and every people in poverty. As the cradle of this poverty alleviation strategy, Qingyuan is a model for the whole province. It has allocated 580million for the work and successfully created five patterns for poverty alleviation: establishment of industries, infrastructure construction, mutual aid fund, export of labor and relocation of villages. In this connection, it has made remarkable achievements:1000 projects of collective economy has been carried out in poverty-stricken villages, 50,000 households have benefited, 14,400 people have been organized to work in other places, 162,000 people successfully have shaken off poverty and the collective revenues of 769 villages (235 of which are provincial-level poor villages) have exceeded 30,000. It has launched the relocation project for the villagers living in high and cold mountainous region in order to solve the poverty issue of this region which lack basic living and production conditions in a fundamental way. Qingyuan government has invested 42.27 yuan in the three relocation pilot counties of Liannan, Yangshan and Qingxin and relocated 229 households and 1109 people. 439 houses are under constructions and 162 houses have been established. To solve the drinking water difficulty of the rural area, Qingyuan vigorously promote the infrastructure construction to ensure safe drinking water supply for the rural citizens. In consequence, 1.16 million people now have safe water to drink, finishing the task entrusted by the provincial government 3 years ahead. Meanwhile, it organized fund-raising activities which raised 230 million yuan from the society and invested all of them in the poverty alleviation project. Qingyuan conscientiously implement the policy of bringing benefits and wealth to the people, effectively increasing people's income. As compared with 2005, in 2010, the annul income of the workers at posts reached 31,217 yuan, increasing by 70.4%, the disposable income per capita of the urban residents and the net income of rural residents were 15768 yuan and 6060 yuan, increasing by 69.1% and 67.4% respectively.

Qingyuan city thinks highly of and actively promote overseas Chinese affairs. The overseas Chinese affairs departments at various levels regard supporting local development and providing service for the overseas Chinese as the foothold and starting point to safeguard the interests of the overseas Chinese. The departments actively solve all kinds of problems for the overseas Chinese and compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and effectively protect their legal rights. They also actively carry out the renovation of the dilapidated buildings for the overseas Chinese who returned or seek refuge in China. So far, 3000 dilapidated buildings have been renovated. In order to implement the "Heart of Overseas Chinese" residential project, the related departments have raised more than 1.4 million donations to build residential buildings for the 3 overseas Chinese tea plantations and 282 overseas Chinese families. Qingyuan deepens the reforms on overseas Chinese farms to steps up its integration process, advancing the reform and promoting the social harmony. To promote economic and social development, it vigorously push forward the work to introduce investment through the overseas Chinese, serve the overseas Chinese businessmen and enterprises and attract investment from the overseas Chinese and help them settle down. It also actively organizes performances for the overseas

Chinese and root-seeking activities for the young overseas Chinese. It vigorously conducts cultural and educational exchanges to introduce Chinese culture and the folk customs and dynamic development of Qingyuan to the world.

Looking into the future, Qingyuan government has put forward the following goals: the per capita GDP will reach or exceed the average of Guangdong province by 2020; to qualify for

a moderately prosperous society in all aspects; to basically achieve socialist modernization and to become a provincial demonstration city of coordinated development, a new growth area around pearl river delta for the high-tech industry, a leisure and livable city of south China and a satellite city of Guangzhou. Currently, under the leadership of the municipal party committee and the municipal government, sticking to the principle of freedom of thoughts and in the spirit of pioneering and enterprising, the whole city is striving to become a vanguard of fast growth and a demonstration city for sound and rapid development in order to construct a moderately prosperous society and build a happy Qingyuan.

File No: SF0175
JB:dp

19 December 2013

Mr Adrian Wood
28 Walden Street
NEWSTEAD TAS 7250
Tel: +61 3 6343 1997
Mobile: +61 414 902 450
adriananddianne@gmail.com

Dear Mr Wood

I am writing to thank you very much for your detailed correspondence of November 20th where you outlined the potential for Launceston City Council to explore developing a Sister City relationship with Qingyuan City in Guangdong Province.

I am aware that your letter is currently being considered by Launceston City Council's Sister City Committee however in the interim I wished to write to you personally to register my interest and support for Launceston to investigate this opportunity and to also thank those representatives of Qingyuan City who have expressed an interest in developing a relationship with a city such as ours.

Your comprehensive briefing note outlined the background and current status of Qingyuan City with respect to infrastructure projects, the development of industrial parks and many other strategic developments that the city has undertaken however I was particularly interested in Qingyuan's strategic approach to becoming a 'liveable city' and also its obvious credentials as both a tourism destination and a place with heritage attractions.

Launceston benefits from Tasmania's 'clean and green' brand and like Qingyuan our level of liveability was recently recognised when we were awarded 'Australia's most family friendly city 2013' by Suncorp Bank. We were also recognised by Google as Tasmania's leading e-Town as well as having our own City Park come in at number 9 out of a survey of all parks in Australia by the users of Trip Advisor.

Our built heritage is amongst the most significant in Australia and the natural attraction of our Cataract Gorge just five minutes from the city centre has received national and international acclaim.

.../2



Town Hall, St John Street, Launceston
PO Box 396, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
T 03 6323 3000 F 03 6323 3001
E council@launceston.tas.gov.au
www.launceston.tas.gov.au

Page 2

I have included a link here to a short promotional video by Business Events Tasmania to give a taste of Launceston and Tasmania for those who wish to view it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbC7cvlcuhE&feature=share&list=PLnVQ-EveWlJwrj9QhQCqddvxNucU0WVZL>

I believe the shared interests of Launceston and Qingyuan in the areas of tourism, heritage and liveability in particular, provide an excellent foundation upon which to explore the potential for us to develop a relationship with Qingyuan City and I will be advocating strongly both to the Sister City Committee as well as directly to the Mayor and General Manager, that this is a project that we engage in proactively in early 2014.

Thank you very much for the provision of such detailed information and for making Launceston City Council aware of this opportunity.

I hope that this exchange of letters might mark the beginning of a fruitful relationship and please do not hesitate to contact me further should you wish to discuss further developments.

Yours sincerely



Ald Jeremy Ball
DEPUTY MAYOR
Launceston City Council

+61 3 6323 3114

+61 407 443 800

jeremy.ball@launceston.tas.gov.au

清 远 市 外 事 侨 务 局

Dear Mr Adrian Wood,

Greetings from Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan Municipality!

A few days ago, deputy division chief of Consulate Division in Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office (GDFAO), Mr Li Jiabin forwarded your letter to us. We appreciate the efforts you have made to help establish the sister-city relationship between Qingyuan City and Launceston City.

Located in the north-central part of Guangdong Province, China, Qingyuan is a city with a total area of 19,200 km² and a population of 4.57 million. In the ancient times, Qingyuan was known as Fengcheng, meaning the city of phoenix. First made a county in the Qin Dynasty, it is a time-honored city with more than 2,000 years of history. Moreover, it is considered as the closest garden city to Guangzhou, the capital city of Guangdong Province due to the abundant tourism resources it has like cultural heritages and scenic landscapes. Endowed with such advantages, Qingyuan City has racked up honors and awards, including “China Livable City”, “Hometown of Drifting in China”, and “City of Hot Spring in China”. In recent years, Qingyuan City has presented dynamics that is unprecedentedly strong and remarkable, trying to play a key role in the rising and prosperity of the North Region of Guangzhou. A delegation of Launceston City is always welcome to visit Qingyuan when it is

convenient to you.

It is to my knowledge that the authorities of Qingyuan government are scheduled to visit Australia in 2014. We would very much love to discuss with Launceston City about cooperation regarding economic trade, tourism, city construction, culture, education, health and so on.

I hope that we can stay in touch. Thank you again for your efforts in facilitating the establishment of the sister-city relationship between Qingyuan City and Launceston City.

Happy new year.

Yours Sincerely

Sizhen Li

Director

Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan Municipality

Jan. 14th .2014



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF LAUNCESTON

File No: SF0175
AvZ:dp

3 March 2014

Mr Li Sizhen
Director Foreign Affairs & Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau
Qingyuan City
Guangdong Province
Peoples Republic of China
Email: iwp701@163.com

Dear Mr Li

Greetings from Launceston. I have recently met with Mr Adrian Wood one of our local residents, who has worked closely with the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office on Sister State and Sister City Relationships for many years.

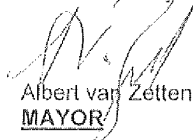
Mr Wood has passed onto Launceston City Council a copy of your letter of 14 January. I am delighted that Qingyuan City has expressed an interest in developing a relationship with Launceston. This matter is currently being considered by the Launceston City Council.

In investigating the possibility of a relationship with Qingyuan, it is important that Launceston takes into account a number of factors. These include the impact on Launceston's current relationship with Taiyuan City in Shanxi Province, the sectors and organisations within Launceston that would most benefit and the scope to include neighbouring municipal areas in a potential relationship between Launceston and Qingyuan.

You will appreciate that it will take a little time to fully investigate these matters. In the meantime we encourage Qingyuan to continue to consider the possibility of a visit to Australia in 2014. If this eventuates Launceston City Council would welcome a visit of a delegation from Qingyuan to further explore opportunities of cooperation between our two cities.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Albert van Zetten
MAYOR

Copy: Ms Luo Weiping, Foreign Affairs and Publicity Section
Qingyuan Municipal Foreign Affairs & Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau
Email: iwp701@163.com



Town Hall, 51 John Street, Launceston
PO Box 396, LAUNCESTON, TAS 7250
T 08 6323 3000 F 08 6323 3000
E Council@launceston.tas.gov.au
www.launceston.tas.gov.au

清 远 市 外 事 侨 务 局

10 April 2014

Mr. Albert van Zetten
Mayor of Launceston City
Tasmania, Australia

Respected Mr. Albert van Zetten,

Greetings! It is such a great pleasure to receive your letter. Thank you very much for your precious time reading our letter given your busy schedule. Moreover, we appreciate that the sister-city relationship issue is under serious and careful consideration of Launceston City Council.

Referring to the three aspects you mentioned that Launceston City takes into consideration when deciding whether to establish sister-city relationship with Qingyuan City or not in your letter, here are my understanding for your reference.

Firstly, the establishment of sister-city relationship between Qingyuan City and Launceston City will not affect the relationship between Launceston City and Taiyuan City. On the contrary, it can be conducive to the friendly exchange among the three cities; it also enlarge our possible circle of resource sharing. In addition, it is clearly provided by the CPAFFC (Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries) that the number of sister cities does not affect the establishment of new sister-city relationship for Chinese cities.

Secondly, from the materials we got from Mr. Adrian Wood, we learned that Launceston City has been doing a fantastic job in tourism, education, livability and agriculture. We are very glad to tell you that Qingyuan City is also endowed with various advantages in these fields, which can be a good foundation for our cooperation. Therefore, we believe that the two cities can learn from each other and attain mutual improvement.

Thirdly, it is our hope that the cooperation between Qingyuan City and Launceston City can cover the surrounding areas, as well. Qingyuan City has its advantages in terms of location. It is only 60 km away from Guangzhou City, one of the world trade centers. In 2014, a package of Guangzhou-Qingyuan Cooperation Strategies have been formulated and carried out. For instance, the inter-city rail between Guangzhou and Qingyuan City will be completed and put into use in 2016, and by then 20 minutes will be enough to reach the downtown of Guangzhou from Qingyuan City.

Therefore, our sister-city relationship, if concluded, would be helpful for Launceston City if it intends to cooperate with Guangzhou. As for us, we would love to carry out exchanges and strengthen ties between Qingyuan City and the surrounding areas of Launceston City, even the whole Tasmania.

Last but not least, the deputy mayor of Qingyuan City is planning to lead a delegation and visit Australia this year, but the exact date is to be determined. I will inform you of the details in advance and discuss with you to see when it is the appropriate time for the visit. In the meantime, entrusted by the mayor of Qingyuan City, I cordially invite you with a delegation of Launceston City government officials to visit Qingyuan City so that you can better understand the achievement we have made, and then seek cooperation opportunities between the two cities. Moreover, it would be a great chance for us to further discuss the cooperation between Qingyuan City and Launceston City.

I am looking forward to meeting you.

Kind regards

Li Sizhen
Director



Foreign Affairs & Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan City Municipality
Qingyuan City, Guangdong Province
People's Republic of China
E-mail: lwp701@163.com

Janine Walter

From: Campbell, Alan (DEDTA) <Alan.Campbell@development.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 May 2014 5:21 PM
To: Bruce Williams
Cc: Robert Dobrzynski
Subject: Fujian Province enquiry

Deputy Director-General Wang Tianming is currently coordinating the provincial efforts for Governor's visit to Australia, as part of a Presidential visit. In the lead up to that visit, local governments of Fuzhou (capital of Fujian) and Putian (a coastal city to the south of Fuzhou) propose to twin up with Hobart and Launceston respectively, focusing on cooperation in the areas of vocational education, sustainable forest development, maritime preservation and development and utilization of marine resources, and tourism. We hope to have your ideas on this proposal. If it is a good idea for your side, they are thinking of teaming up a delegation to visit Tasmania and work out details with you in June.

I propose that that the Premier will write to the two Mayors regarding this proposal, to seek the views of the Councils.

As some background, Tasmania and Fujian Province have had a formal sister-state relationship since 1983, with regular exchanges over the years. Former Premier Bacon was very keen on the relationship and visited twice during the period when Xi Jinping was Governor of Fujian Province. Xi made Bacon an honorary citizen of Fujian province in 2004. Xi has of course gone on to become President of China. As you know, there has been lots of speculation about Xi visiting Tasmania later this year, at a time which coincides with the G20 Summit in Brisbane 15/16 November. His attendance at the G20 has not been confirmed as yet, nor the visit to Tasmania. Formal invitations to Xi have been made by former Premier Lara Giddings, the current Prime Minister and Premier Hodgman.

I do not know whether there is a direct relationship between between this request from Fujian and the President's visit, but I thought it important for you to have the above background to the situation.

I have copied Robert in for him information.

Regards

Alan Campbell

General Manager | Sectoral and Trade Development
Tasmanian Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts
Tel: +61 3 6165 5052 | Mobile: +61 419 507 795 | Fax: +61 3 6233 5800
Alan.Campbell@development.tas.gov.au

20 URGENT BUSINESS

That Council pursuant to Clause 8(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005, consider item 20.1 as an urgent matter of business.

20.1 Urgent Business Item - Urgency Motion: LGAT action on Federal Budget

FILE NO: SF5547

GENERAL MANAGER: Robert Dobrzynski

DECISION STATEMENT:

1. Consideration to admit a matter to business
2. Consideration of the matter

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That pursuant to the provision of Regulation 8(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005 the Council admit the item titled ***Urgency Motion - LGAT action on Federal Budget*** to the agenda of the meeting of Council, in order that the meeting may deal with the matter.

REPORT:

The Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005 indicate under Regulation 8 (6) as follows:

A council by absolute majority, or a council committee by simple majority, may decide at an ordinary meeting to deal with a matter that is not on the agenda if the general manager has reported-

- (a) the reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda; and*
- (b) that the matter is urgent; and*
- (c) that advice has been provided under section 65 of the Act.*

The Council has received a document entitled ***Urgency Motion - LGAT action on Federal Budget*** from the Deputy Mayor Alderman Ball. A copy of the document is attached.

20.1 Urgent Business Item - Urgency Motion: LGAT action on Federal Budget...(Cont'd)

Aldermen Ball has communicated with the General Manager by email indicating:

I would like to request that due to the rolling implications from the federal budget and the short lead up to the LGAT conference (which this motion pertains to) this motion be considered as an urgency motion to be debated at the meeting of Monday May 26.

The reason for the request is that;

- *Budget implications are only just coming to light and have emerged since the cut-off for motions last Friday*
- *There is only 8 weeks to the beginning of the LGAT conference and the loss of a further two weeks would impact on the effectiveness of the motion.*

*Hopefully for these reasons the motion is considered to be urgent.
Please find NOM attached.*

In considering whether to submit a matter to a Council Meeting that is not on the agenda, the General Manager is required to report to the Council on 3 matters. Please find consideration on each of the 3 matters detailed hereunder.

8 (6)(a) The reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda:

It was not possible to include the matter referred by the Deputy Mayor on the agenda, due to the requirements of Regulation 16(5) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005 not being able to be met due to the email communication from the Deputy Mayor raising the matter being received on the 19th May 2014.

8 (6)(b) that the matter is urgent; and

The nature of the motion submitted by the Deputy Mayor would require consideration by the Local Government Association of Tasmania at its conference in July, in order to establish a Local Government position on the matters raised within the Deputy Mayor's motion. In light of the fact that the State Budget is to be handed down in August, any consideration of a submission from the Local Government Association of Tasmania on the implications of the Federal Budget on Local Government would need to be made prior to August.

20.1 Urgent Business Item - Urgency Motion: LGAT action on Federal Budget...(Cont'd)

In light of the timing relating to both the Local Government Association of Tasmania conference, where a Local Government position may be determined on the Federal Budget, and the proposed determination of the State Budget in August, the timing determines that the matter is urgent.

8 (6)(c) that advice has been provided under section 65 of the Act.

The General Manager has incorporated with this report the content of a brief discussion with the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of Tasmania Mr Allan Garcia. It is considered that all relevant advice has been provided under Section 65 of the Act to enable Aldermen to consider this matter at the meeting.

It should be indicated that a Council may by absolute majority, decide to deal with this matter that is not on the Agenda, should it determine to do so.

Qualified Advice

Upon receipt of the communication and ***Urgency Motion*** from the Deputy Mayor, the General Manager rang the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association seeking his views regarding the possibility of the matter being discussed at the Local Government Association of Tasmania conference in July (23-25). Mr Garcia indicated that he believes that the matters required to be considered are reasonably limited and that a discussion paper could be prepared for the benefit of members at the conference. He has indicated that he would discuss with the President the possibility that the matter be appended to the General Meeting as a **Topical Discussion Item** on the conference agenda. The paper prepared by LGAT would put the proposition to the meeting in relation to the intention to undertake representation to the State Government in the context of the State Budget, in order to ensure that decisions taken by the Federal Government are considered by the State in the context of the State Budget.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Consideration contained in Report

COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday 26 May 2014

20.1 Urgent Business Item - Urgency Motion: LGAT action on Federal Budget...(Cont'd)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Consideration contained in Report

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Consideration contained in Report

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

N/A

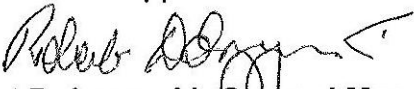
BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Consideration contained in Report

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Robert Dobrzynski: General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Urgency Motion - LGAT action on Federal Budget
-

Attachment 1- Urgency Motion - LGAT action on Federal Budget

LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

FILE NO: SF5547
DATE: 19 May 2014
TO: Robert Dobrzynski General Manager
Cc Committee Clerks
FROM: Alderman Ball
SUBJECT: **Urgency Motion - LGAT action on Federal Budget**

In accordance with Clause 16 (5) of the Local Government Regulations 2005 (Meeting Procedures) please accept this Notice of Motion for placement on the agenda of the Meeting of Council to be held on Monday

Motion

That Council request and work with, LGAT and other relevant Councils and stakeholders, to prepare a 'Federal Budget Impact ' Discussion Paper to be discussed at a workshop at the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) conference in July (23-25) to outline and analyse the potential impact on local government and our communities from the proposed Federal Budget;

And further;

That the picture that is built up is used as a foundation document, to work with the state government in the lead up to the state budget to be handed down at the end of August, to ensure that the needs of Tasmania's disadvantaged and vulnerable are considered and also to ensure that further cost-shifting to local government does not occur.

Background

The implications from the federal budget are still being quantified however early indications are that as drafted, there will be significant impacts on pensioners, concession card holders and other vulnerable community members.

These proposed cuts at a federal level have implications for the state budget, as well as for local government, not just through impacts on residents but for local government itself.

In the run-up to the state budget decisions will need to be made by the government as to how they deal with the budget implications and in view of this it is critical that local government is proactive in building a holistic picture of the impacts on our community well prior to the state budget being handed down.

LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

Advice from the General Manager is that the most appropriate agency to take a lead on quantifying the impacts on local government communities from the federal budget is the LGAT and potentially Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) at a national level.

The LGAT conference is coming up from July 23 to 25 in Hobart and this motion seeks for Launceston to proactively work with LGAT as the lead agency to build a picture of the collective impacts of cuts to concessions, services and other programs which will impact on pensioners and other concession card holders and disadvantaged groups.

It is envisaged that LGAT would lead a working group to develop a Discussion Paper which outlines in basic form;

- The extent of federal budget cuts proposed and the collective impact they would have on pensioners;
- Implications for those vulnerable people under 30 on Newstart;
- Cuts to services such as Youth Connections which are no longer being funded and the impact this will have on disadvantaged young people looking to transition from school to learning or working;

It is envisaged that the Discussion Paper would quantify in broad terms the type of cuts that are being proposed and the quantum of people that might be affected and also would look at which costs might be potentially transferred to state government.

The Discussion Paper would then form the basis of a conversation on this matter at the LGAT conference and if necessary a motion which could come from the floor to engage with the state and federal governments through LGAT on the impact of the proposed cuts and also to ensure that there is a high profile conversation happening with the state government in the lead-up to the state budget.

Clearly there is not time for detailed analysis but this proposal seeks for us as a sector to at least collate basic information and join the dots as to the range and extent of services to be cut (Legal Aid Commission, youth programs, concessions etc.) so that we have an integrated 'big picture' of what this might mean for affected communities and where those communities are concentrated.

This leaves only 6 weeks or so to build this request into the LGAT conference and to quantify the impacts through consulting with relevant organisations and agencies hence the request for this to be considered as an urgency motion.

Ideally the LGAT led working group would work with other city councils from the NW and South to assist in contacting NGOs, the ABS and others to build up an integrated picture of the impacts in the lead-up to the conference.

Due to the work needing to be done in a short time-frame it is requested that this be considered urgently by Launceston City Council in order for the LGAT to be contacted and a decision made in time for it to be included in the run-up to the conference; and thus be relevant in the lead-up to the state budget.

LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

Alderman Jeremy Ball

Alderman Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Ball', written in a cursive style.

21 INFORMATION / MATTERS REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

Nil

22 CLOSED COUNCIL ITEM(S)

Nil

23 MEETING CLOSURE