

## Mayor on Air – December 2016



It should be noted that listeners/callers to Mayor on Air should still lodge their request/query by contacting Council. People can call 64 714 700, email [wcc@westcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:wcc@westcoast.tas.gov.au), lodge a request from Council's website ([www.westcoast.tas.gov.au](http://www.westcoast.tas.gov.au)) where's there a service request link on the homepage, or call into the Office in Queenstown.

### **This is the preferred method.**

By only calling into Mayor on Air Council is not able to follow-up with updates or for more information.

### **Responses to Caller queries from Mayor on Air 20 December 2016**

**1. With the letters received from Council for the site licenses at Macquarie Heads, will the sites go into a re-draw and people be required to be moved?**

The letters were provided as a reminder to site licence holders that the current licence agreement expires 30 June 2017. The letters advised that in preparation for a potential licence renewal period, inspections of sites will be undertaken, with a reminder that site holders must be fully compliant with the conditions of the licence they have signed.

In conjunction with this reminder notice Council is currently undertaking investigations and discussions with Crown Land Services with regards to the potential continuation of Council's current Head Lease over the existing Macquarie Heads Camping Ground area – due to expire on 30 June 2017 - i.e. there is no guarantee at this stage that Council will be granted a new Head Lease moving forward. Therefore, should this be the final outcome the Macquarie Heads Camping Ground as it currently exists (with sub-lease sites in place) would no longer be possible.

The letter to site holders was therefore to advise that, at the very least, current site holders must be compliant with their existing conditions and if they are not then they will not be considered for future sites (the existence of future sites still not finalised though given the need for Council to still lock in permission to sign up to a new Head Lease). Issues such as potential re-draws, facility management, facility size, and even further development etc can only be confirmed once Council has secured the right to run the facility in the area and the Council has made some decisions re the future management and development of the site.

**2. When are the backboards and rings going to be replaced at the Queenstown Sports Stadium?**

The backboards and rings are scheduled to be replaced on 23 & 24 January. The new equipment installed meets Australian Standards and are safe for play however they will be replaced with the previous spring-loaded rings which are of the standard required for higher grade basketball games (i.e. visiting coastal teams). The new backboards and rings can be used both indoors and outdoors and Council intends to place them at other facilities where replacement equipment is needed.



### 3. Why is there continually no fuel in Zeehan?

Whilst Council is aware of this situation we are unable to provide any detail as to the operations of these businesses. Concerned residents can contact the individual businesses/petrol companies.

### 4. When is Queenstown going to get a fire break on the southern side of town?

**This has been needed for at least 20 years.**

Council staff have regular discussions with representatives from TasFire and during 2016 worked closely with TasFire on the Zeehan Community Bushfire Mitigation plan. In recent months fire breaks, as recommended in this plan, have been completed around Zeehan.

Council has asked for advice as to when our other communities will have such plans and fire breaks implemented. We have been provided the following information regarding bushfire planning for our West Coast communities and we remind West Coasters to take into consideration that TasFire has one planner responsible for creating plans across Tasmania, which are completed according to risk rating:

*Rosebery:* A Community Bushfire Protection Plan & Community Bushfire Response Plan have been completed. The Western Fire Management Area Committee uses the Fire Protection Plan as the primary reference document to guide what mitigation planning is being considered for this area, including any future fire break construction. A wide firebreak was constructed around the perimeter of Rosebery in 2007. This “Weed Management Break” project was funded and managed by MMG and achieved an effective weed management and fire break around Rosebery.

*Zeehan:* A Community Bushfire Protection Plan, Community Bushfire Response Plan and a Community Bushfire Mitigation Plan have been completed.

*Strahan:* A Community Bushfire Protection Plan & Community Bushfire Response Plan have been completed. Development of a Community Bushfire Mitigation Plan is planned for completion 2017/18.

*Tullah:* A Community Bushfire Protection Plan has been completed. A Community Bushfire Response Plan is not planned. The Western Fire Management Area Committee uses the Fire Protection Plan as the primary reference document to guide what mitigation planning is being considered for this area.

*Queenstown:* Development of a Community Bushfire Protection Plan and Community Bushfire Response Plan is planned to commence in the 2017/18 fire season. The Western Fire Management Area Committee uses the Fire Protection Plan as the primary reference document to guide what mitigation planning is being considered for this area.

### Why can't a group of friends exercise in the Queenstown Pool after paying their gold coin donation?

Council encourages use of facilities. Structured activities, including those involving instructors or requiring dedicated space, are required to use facilities in accordance with procedures for hire/use.



**5. When will Mt Lyell re-open?**

Council is not aware of any reopening dates. The Mayor and General Manager maintain regular contact with the mine operators and discussions with State Government continue. It is Council's understanding that the critical factor in any potential reopening remains current copper prices.

**6. Why are the maps still not up at the Queenstown Cemetery? Is there a possibility that a toilet block can be installed?**

As advised during November Mayor on Air, it is Council's intention to have the map fully installed by the end of February. At this stage Council does not have any plans to build a toilet block at the Queenstown Cemetery.

**7. Why are the bridges on the walking tracks at Strahan being tendered to non-local businesses when the previous contracts were undertaken by local contractors?**

Council's bridges are inspected regularly by an accredited asset management (bridge) inspector. Any bridge works scheduled for completion as part of Council's budget must be undertaken by suitably qualified contractors who are able to complete detailed structural designs of the bridge and complete the required works. All such contracts are awarded in accordance with Council's [Code for Tenders and Contracts](#), which makes specific allowances for works to be completed by West Coast companies where applicable (with a specific weighting in favour of tenders lodged by local providers). Council has adopted a best practice tender process that supports local companies and that complies with legislative restrictions.

**8. Why were the local brigades & SES services not consulted by Council in the preparation of the West Coast Disaster Information Handout?**

The [West Coast Disaster Information handout](#) provides West Coasters with vital details about what to do to prepare for an emergency and what to expect in the event of an evacuation.

The flyer, funded through the Natural Disaster Resilience Grant Program (NDRGP), provides residents with tips to create an emergency plan, including an emergency kit checklist, and also includes maps of the larger West Coast communities.

The flyer was developed in consultation with various emergency services organisations, including SES, whilst also taking into consideration Council's role in emergency management and assisting residents to be prepared.

Any further suggestions regarding future development of the document can be submitted to the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, Dirk Dowling, for consideration.

**9. Venture Minerals purchased a parcel of land with a covenant stating that 12 units were required to be built - why hasn't the West Coast Council enforced the covenant to Venture?**

Any discussions relating to property, including development applications, are conducted confidentially with property owners / developers, and only made public in accordance with relevant legislation.