

## Community Conversations Talking Points

### 9 November 2023 – Gawler/North Motton

Mayor Cheryl Fuller hosted a Community Conversation at the North Motton Hall on Thursday 9 November 2023 where residents of Gawler, North Motton and surrounds enjoyed an informal chat on local issues followed by morning tea.

Conversation talking points are below:

We wish to bring to your attention the issue of Harvey's Road, North Motton. We operate a small business – North Motton cherries – we rely on producing a quality product, our trees need to be A grade. The road in question creates dust with the movement of vehicles and on windy days. The dust is a major issue on our road. It goes all over the cherries and permeates our packing facility and is a problem. There is a cost impact on producing cherries as we have to regularly wash our produce. Also, we are about to open an air B&B one of the impediments to this project is again the unsealed road as hire cars are not allowed on gravel roads so the air B&B is likely to lose business. As a small business in the Central Coast we would ask our council to help us in our ventures by sealing this road – this would certainly help us. There are also other businesses losing business due to this on Harvey's Road.

One of our strategies will be the development of a tourism strategy, including signage and accessibility. We acknowledge not being able to drive on gravel roads with hire cars for example.

We have an unsealed road policy that determines if or when a road is sealed. There are several criteria taken into account. There is also an option for Special Circumstances. In order to properly assess the warrants for sealing as much information as possible is required to assist with the assessment process.

It is recommended that a request for sealing based on special circumstances is forwarded. The document can be found at:

<https://www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Unsealed-Roads-Policy-and-Guidelines.pdf>

The entrance off the main road onto Harvey's road needs attention. Long vehicles coming down onto the main road have to use the wrong side of the main road to get round and onto it creating safety issues – vision at this intersection is poor needing some attention. Can Council please fix these issues?

There is limited ability to improve sight distance at the intersection without major reconstruction works due to the steep topography of adjacent land and existing road alignment. Recent vegetation slashing since the meeting has improved sight to an extent. It is generally accepted that large vehicles will not be able to stay within lanes at all times when turning and drivers need to consider use of roads and safety as part of their journey. As improvement has merit the intersection will be listed for investigation and to determine a priority as part of the next budget estimates process for 2024–25 which will occur between January and April 2024.

**There have been a number of nasty accidents on Harvey's Road, particularly on blind corners and the intersection. The area has now developed with more families living in the area and more traffic as a result. Can we have this road sealed?**

**Also, potholes are a real issue and it does not seem that the road has been maintained regularly enough. A grader hasn't been for 3 years.**

Unsealed roads are inspected annually with a grading program produced from these inspections. Harveys Road was last graded in August 2023 and prior to that in January 2020. It has had potholes fixed at various other times on request and inspection. A small section was also sealed to minimise ongoing maintenance issues beyond the existing sealed section. An inspection on the week of this community meeting revealed the road to be in good condition, with limited potholes and minor corrugated sections.

**Can we clarify whose responsibility it is to maintain the road into Gunns Plains currently it is a privately owned road – Concerns over the gate across the road being locked particularly as a fire hazard. Can Council take over this road? Fire representatives are saying they don't go down there due to safety concerns. Can we have someone come and look at this road?**

Council manages around 140km of gravel road and does not take over responsibility for roads constructed for private access. However, we understand the safety issues raised which are similar in any area which has one access road. These concerns will be passed to the Tasmanian Fire Service.

**With regards to recyclables; One bin collects everything. Nothing is separated like in other tips. Are our items actually being recycled? – Also, what's happened with the deposit on bottles?**

Regardless of whether separated at the site or taken as a comingled load, all recyclable materials are transported to a sorting facility where relevant separation and processing occurs.

Container Refund Scheme – the scheme has been delayed from originally expected introduction, but will still be introduced at a later date, currently unknown.

**The roundabout at Queens gardens is confusing and a bad design what can we do about that? When do we indicate etc? This one is very close to the next and is confusing.**

Council is not responsible for the road rules but acknowledges your concern. The Tasmanian Road rules state :

When entering a roundabout you must:

- follow any arrows indicating the direction to travel
- use your indicator if you intend to turn left, right or make a U-turn, and
- indicate left when exiting the roundabout, where practical.

**Comment received – Thankyou for the great lighting at the rowing club – it has made a huge difference.**

**Drains in West Gawler – these are blocked with sticks etc, concerns as drains need to be cleaned out. Can council please look at this?**

The issue has been forwarded through our customer request system for attention.

**West Gawler bridge – the reserve here needs slashing. It used to be done by a resident, but this resident has now moved on. People fish and camp there. Can we please have this area tidied up?**

This issue will be investigated. Council would mow the area in accordance with its rural mowing program, generally a maximum of two mows per year.

**With regards to the tip and the section that collects wood/timber. What happens with that?**

The timber is chipped or recycled. We try to minimise how much material is disposed of in the landfill to lower the statewide waste levy collected at the site. We are continually looking to find ways to minimise landfill quantities and improve accessibility and safety for the public using the facility.

**Can you tell me what further development is planned for the equestrian center. Previously looked at re-locating.**

Report was done, Decision was that we should not proceed with relocation.

**There is only one public toilet facility on this road. They get a lot of use and are looking a bit tired. Can we please have this looked at? Some of the tiles are falling off and the basin is rusted out etc.**

The immediate issues will be forwarded to our maintenance team to schedule into their programs. A review of all facilities is to be conducted over the next 12 months to determine

whether they are fit for purpose and meet the current requirements for compliance with disability access, etc.

**How will the fire levy that has been proposed be administered? We are Concerned over possible rising costs. Where is the money going to go to/how will it be used?**

We have confirmed that the state government is looking at changing the funding model. It is an important service that needs to be funded properly to meet the increasing needs of the community in natural disaster response.

Whilst Council hasn't workshopped the matter yet and does not yet have a formal position on the proposed changes, it is an increasing area of cost. The principle of trying to secure more certain funding and increase funding for this important service is understood and supported.

Council is also concerned about the proposed funding model which will see a much higher burden on rural ratepayers. Council will provide a submission to this effect on behalf of the community.

**Will Parks and Wildlife also pay for the fire service, or will private owners be made to subsidise other property owners such as parks and wildlife? This would not be fair because they do call upon the services of local fire stations at times.**

It is not clear in the proposed changes whether or not this is the case; however, Council would like to see the state contribute to this important service as a property owner equally. Council will consider this for inclusion in Council's submission.

**How much do the insurance companies currently put towards the fire levy?**

It's not clear but we are advised that insurance policy costs will decrease.

**I only knew about the meeting because of a neighbor. Didn't get a flyer. There cannot be more mailboxes on the road. I don't use computers, and mail doesn't get delivered up our way. Please consider how your notifications are delivered to rural residents.**

We will consider other delivery methods. We will make sure post office boxes are included in the flyer delivery.

**Thank you to all of the community members who participated.**