Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

PO Box 28 Point Lonsdale VIC 3225 **Reg. No. A0017883S**

Email: plcasecretary@gmail.com **Website:** www.plca.org.au

Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

Annual General Meeting - Minutes 3 January 2025

Time of Meeting: 7.30pm, Friday 3 January 2025

Venue: **Point Lonsdale Primary School**

1. **Welcome and Introduction by President Mr. David Kenwood.**

2. **Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners.**

3. **Welcome to Mayor/Councillors/CEO/Officers/Members and Visitors attending.**
   Cr. Di Rule, Cr. Isabelle Tolhurst, Cr. Helene Cameron, Mr Martin Gill (CEO)

4. **Apologies.** . Sue Bendell, Elizabeth Hill, Michelle Jepson.

5. **Matters arising from 2024 AGM Minutes.** - Nil.

6. **Minutes of last Annual General Meeting – 5 January 2024**

   Motion: *That the minutes of the 2024 AGM be confirmed as a true record.*

   Moved: T. Mason *Seconded: A. Rogers*

7. **Reports**
   a. **2024 Annual Report – President Mr. David Kenwood**

   Motion: *That the Annual Report by the President be received.*

   Moved: D. Kenwood *Seconded: T. Mason*

   b. 2024 Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Mr. Trevor Mason

   Motion: *That the Treasurer's Report be endorsed.*

   Moved: T. Mason *Seconded: R. Minty*

8. **Election of Office Bearers and other Committee Members:**
   (All positions now declared vacant & Guest Chair (Mayor Rule) to take meeting chair)

   a. *No other nominations have been received – therefore the following nominated for respective Office Bearer positions, are elected;*

   PLCA President: *Ms. Lynne Furness*
   Vice – President: *Ms. Fay Agterhuis*
   Secretary: *Mr. L. Muscott*
   Treasurer: *Mr. Trevor Mason*
   (Election by Ballot will follow if there are more than one nomination for each position,

otherwise those nominated are duly elected. Guest Chairperson, Mayor Rule to vacate the chair, Incoming President will now take chair, and give a brief introduction.)

b. ***Motion:*** *That for 2024 the of ordinary committee member positions be 6:*

Moved: L. Furness *Seconded: F. Agterhuis*

c. *No other nominations have been received – therefore the following Ordinary Committee members that have been nominated are elected:*

1. *Mr. David Kenwood*
2. *Mr. Anthony Hocking*
3. *Mrs. Michelle Jepson.*

(Election by Ballot will follow if there are more than one nomination for each position – otherwise duly elected.)

9. Annual Subscription for 2026 Subscription Due Date/2026 AGM Date:

a. ***Motion:*** *That the annual membership subscription for the 2026 year be $10 per person*

Moved: L. Furness *Seconded: D. Kenwood*

b. ***Motion:*** *That the annual subscription due date for the 2026 year be 9 January, 2026.*

Moved: L. Furness *Seconded: D. Kenwood*

c. ***Motion:*** *That the 2026 Annual General Meeting be held on 9 January, 2026.*

Moved: L. Furness *Seconded: D. Kenwood*

d. ***Special Motion:*** *That any subscriptions paid before December 1st are for subscriptions that year, OR if already financial, considered a donation. For any subscription fees paid after 1st December, they are considered payment of next years subscription.*

Moved: L. Furness *Seconded: D. Kenwood*

10. Introduction of Guest Speakers:

The President introduced the Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliffe, Cr. Di Rule, the topic is *"What does a Re-imagined Borough look like after 12 months?"*

[Mayor Rule] Well, thank you and welcome everybody. Some of you might know the tag that I ran with with two other people, was reimagine the Borough. But what I'd like to do is paint a picture for you tonight of some of my plans and hopes for the next 12 months.

I'm sure you'll all agree, especially after a magnificent day like today, that we live in a beautiful part of the world. It's something that we all want to preserve and protect and preserve what we love about this area.

That's why you're all members of the PLCA.

Major part of this desire is respect for our neighbours, our environment, and our heritage.
And I make clear part of my campaign that I believe local government should be apolitical.
I believe it's about providing basic services to ratepayers, services that improve our day to day living. It's not about involvement in social and political issues.

Services, not social and political stances, is what I believe local government should provide.

Like it or not, we've got 3 tiers of government in our country, but those other the two issues should stay in the realm of state and federal politics. So I want our Council to focus on delivering services that improve our lives.

I want the Borough to look good. Neat and tidy to look cared for. That means that the entrances to our towns look good. That means there's no rubbish along the roadside, such as the Narrows.

That means that our footpaths and roads are smooth and user friendly, for walking, or mobile scooters, or prams, or whatever cycles are allowed on. That means that our rubbish bins are emptied regularly, particularly in peak times.

That means that our canopies are trimmed, and are not in the way of cyclists and walkers or drivers trying to make a turn out onto the next road. That means that those who don't pick up after their dogs are reminded of their civic duty.

That means that our lavatories are clean and up to date. That means that our beach accesses are maintained. That means that our main streets are vibrant and welcoming, it means graffiti is removed quickly, and all of this means actions, not words, action.

Unfortunately, we find ourselves in a world where the compilation of plans, of reports, of reviews, of more planning, of more reporting, dominates.

How many of you know that the Borough of Queenscliffe, has a Reconciliation Action Plan?

How many of you have read it?

Yep.

Thank goodness you have Helene, and Martin, and Isabelle, but have a look at it. It's quite a substantial document, and no doubt it's taken quite a lot of time.

Many other councils, and in fact major organisations in the state of Victoria, such as the MCC, don't have a reconciliation action plan, but the Borough with the population of about 3200 does have one.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not dismissing or diminishing any of the issues involved in the reconciliation action plan, but I'm simply suggesting that the smallest local government area in the state with the fewest ratepayers, perhaps, shouldn't be spending time and money on that, ahead of doing other things.

Now, I don't know what it cost to produce. I don't know, what the Consultants charged.

How many hours of meetings involving Council officers and other bureaucrats writing, rewriting, discussing again, reviewing, compiling, don't know what it was, but what I do know is that that reconciliation plan was part of our Community vision and our Council plan.

And here's the rub. If you want Council to take on a particular project or not, you've got to be a part of the decision making process. It's up to you, our community, to tell us what you want, what should be done, how it should be done, and we're going to ask you to be involved.

First, we're going to look at the current Community vision, we'll tweak it, see what you think about it, then we'll get involved in forming our Council plan.

Council will be in contact with you soon to ask you your email address. This will mean that then you can keep up with what's happening in the Borough, not glossy photos. Actual detail, just boring.

This is what's happening and how can you get involved. And please get in the habit of looking at our

website, you might want to make some suggestions about how it can be improved, but at least make a commitment to refer to it regularly.

If you really don't like computers, we will post out information, but think about the costs involved before choosing that option.

The review of the current Community vision is going to take place in the next few months and once that's completed, the four year Council plan will be created over the next six months. That plan is the blueprint for the next 4 years, it says, what we will do, how we will do it, and when it will be done.

Under the Local Government Act 2020, these two documents form the lynchpin for our communities aspirations for the future of the Borough of Queenscliffe, and also the strategic direction of the Council.

From day one, it's been stressed to Councillors that we've got limited resources we have as a Council, we're always going to have to make choices about how those resources are spent.

I'm suggesting we need to refocus our priorities.

We need to look at things like the toilet strategy, and make decisions about extra facilities in the Point Lonsdale area, whether they be at the end of Loch Street, or at the Springs Beach, or at the Dog Beach.

We need to decide how we can offer toilets 24/7, or at least longer hours than already provided in Hesse St. So that visitors visitors are not harassing local businesses to use their facilities.

We need to look at our ageing caravan parks apart from our rates, that's our only other major source of revenue. They bring in about 1.8 million a year, and that money is used to improve and maintain both the parks, but also our coastline.

I believe that the use of the time and effort of our Councillors Council officers and staff should be spent on these smaller, but not insignificant issues, to improve the Borough of Queenscliffe.

So let's get this homework out of the way that the state government set us. Let's cut the process. Let's get to action. Let's be proactive, rather than reactive, but, I repeat, none of these can be done in isolation. It's only through extensive community engagement that we as a Council can make informed decisions and make our twin towns an even more brilliant place to be.

Please keep involved. This organisation, starting in 1910, has got a wonderful history.

Make it that you are making a better place for us to live now. And for the future.

11. **Q&A with members to all Councillors/CEO:**

- *Please be respectful, and keep your questions concise, and to the point, to enable all to have a go.*
- *Moderators will rule inappropriate questions out of order.*
- *Also, please ask a question, please do not make a statement!*

The audience was now invited to ask questions, by the President:

Q.1. [Inaudible]...Climate Emergency Response Plan that is part way through?

[Mayor Rule] OK, well so I have mentioned a few times that I object to the word emergency.

I don't know why it has to be called, a climate emergency response plan.

No doubt, we do need to make decisions that take into account the condition of the climate, and where we're headed, but I don't know that it's important for the Council to have an emergency

response plan.

A guideline. Yes, and it will be something that will be looked at, this year, I believe, is that right Martin?

[Inaudible]

So, and as with other councils, who have have removed the word emergency, that might be something that we consider that's just window dressing, but I think that yes, a lot of it is.

[Questioner – partially inaudible]….so, a new group spends a lot of time dismantling work of the previous group, so, given that particular body of work, with strongly supported by a great many people in the Borough, and it is now halfway through the work, will it be a review or will it be…?

[Mayor Rule] It'll definitely be a review. Um, I question whether we're halfway through the work, far from it, but it will definitely be a review. It won't be a dismantling, it's a review.

[Questioner] Thank-you.

Q2. Perhaps if I can remelt your statements on 'reimagining', I'm interested in the Council's direction toward Climate change, that affects the coastline, which is the heart of a seaside resort.

Is there a effectively a policy that goes to asset replacement and asset maintenance?

[Mayor Rule] That's a question I'd love an answer to myself, because it does seem [inaudible], a slight problem. When yes, we've had all those high seas in September, October and yet November, the Melbourne Cup weekend, a lot of people found five accesses that they couldn't reach the beach.

Now we have to work in with the State Government we've got, DEECA, and Parks Victoria..

[Inaudible]….anyone else?

And they're all saying they don't have any money, and that's not our responsibility. That's yours. No, no. And back it goes.

[Questioner] There's plenty of money for other things! [Inaudible]

[Mayor Rule] So, are we talking State asset replacements, [Questioner - inaudible] yes, well, we are spending, [Questioner - inaudible]...How do we get the money out of the state government, right?

Well, we are knocking on some doors, alright? Let's start. I'm happy to do that.

I was prepared to go down to Springs Beach with the big piece of machinery and start moving the rocks and say, come on, let's just see what happens. DEECA (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action) -will soon jump in then….and I know you're concerned about the Ripview car park stairs.

As you said, the second lot of stairs that are out of action, not good enough, that could be an emergency, one day, a real emergency with someone's drowning, and they can't get up then.

So we do need to force the issue. I absolutely agree. And you're right, it's climate change. It's part of what's going on. We live in an area where there are high tides regularly, irregularly, but we know they're coming.

We need to have some sort of contingency plan for looking after those assets.

Q3. Having read both the the Coastal Management plan, and the climate Emergency Response Plan and I agree, I don't like the word emergency, however, we did have an emergency here. We had, perhaps, most of us would agree, a climate related event occur a couple of months (ago). It took out

lots of our pieces of infrastructure.

And yet we'll look at those plans. I cannot see anything there that would help us respond any quicker, or any slower to those events, the damage that was caused, so my question really is, is there any substance in either of these plans, and can actually deal, with the thing they're trying to address?

[Mayor Rule] I think it's a very good question, and again, the missing ingredient is money.

So we looked at that Coastal Marine management plan, and we've asked for further time to have a closer look at it, because there were 72 actions, no dollars to support any of it.

[Questioner] So, wouldn't the plan have some mention of a reserve that was available, that would be immediately available to be called upon?

[Mayor Rule] I just said, there was no mention of money…..

[Questioner] No reserve? There's nothing..?So if you do have...[Inaudible]

[Mayor Rule] So we don't know where it's to come from. There's no agreement from DEECA to provide it….

[Questioner]..Or our Council to provide it?….

[Mayor Rule] Well, we don't have a lot to provide.

[Audience member] Are there grants available?

[CEO Mr. Martin Gill] Grants, three years ago, across the whole of the nation, 97% of the funding for the Emergency went into recovery and response, and so the government was drawing down money, like it did in COVID, taking borrowings, to give money to response recovery, there was only 3 percent for planning and mitigation. There has been a big push to start to shift that barometer to make sure that we can start to create reserves, start to plan, start to build better, and that shifts slowly, so that the federal government last year shifted through from 3% to 13% in terms of funds available to do the mitigation and preparation, so there's a slow shift.

The bar itself has some reserves, at the moment, they said about 8 million. They can be drawn down on occasion for responses, but it's a one, it's a random day sort of scenario, we won't be able to replenish that very quickly.

[Mayor Rule] And we have drawn on some of that to fix Springs beach, to fix the Royal Park entrance.

[Cr. Tolhurst] This Council, I understand, still sits on the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council, which is a body of coastal councils that lobby the state and federal government, with the acknowledgement that this is a multi-trillion dollar problem, and that no Council, no coastal Council, despite its rates collection, can solve this problem alone, and that the impacts of coastal erosion and climate change are hitting us probably harder, and faster, than we anticipated.

I think, Barney, you may recall council's risk mitigation also acknowledges climate change as the most profound risk to assets, and infrastructure, and people, in the Borough, and it is unmitigated, to some extent, it is the greatest threat we have, and given the the scale of the challenge and the cost of remediation, while we do what we can, it is still acknowledged that we can't bring that risk down to a tolerable level.

And this is information that's in the public arena. It's part of our risk profiling, and the audit and risk committees work.

So, I think there's truth, if I may say, to everyone's questions and commentary. (A) huge problem, not able to be resolved entirely by the Borough.

We do some lobbying in a number of regional forums, to try and find a better solution, but it is a really difficult challenge, particularly for a small Coastal Council like ours.

Q4. Can I ask a question about the land sales in Murray Road? It appeared in the press that Mantello Holdings are wanting to claw back some of the $3.2 million that they've given the Borough for the land on Murray Rd. What are our risks?

[Martin Gill] I have a prepared statement from our lawyers; A commercial property developer bought the land, and warranted they did so, based upon their own investigations, they took responsibility for any environmental remediation that required, despite that, they are now seeking to sue the Borough, as a claim is before the court, it is not appropriate for the Borough to comment further.

But, I can say that, in the settlement discussions most of the issues were taken off the table, this the last attempt to try and force Council back into another settlement discussion, that we probably won't go to that discussion...

[PLCA Secretary] To that discussion, I remember the Environmental Plan when it went up to council. I was there and I think Helene (Cr. Helene Cameron) was there. It was a long time ago and David (Kenwood – PLCA Committee Member) was there. And Fay (Agterhuis – PLCA V/President), I remember cause that's when the they were talking about the frogs in the swales. I don't know what they are on about..

Q5. So the talking back to the earlier question, I have to change back, How much of the coastline does the Borough actually own, and be responsible for? I believe very little of the actual coast-line.

[Martin Gill] The State Government owns it, we manage some of it on behalf of the state government.

So, for instance, the area between the Ferry and Black Lighthouse in Queenscliff, is part of Parks Victoria land, the area from the Narrows, through to here, is land that we manage on behalf of the State. So there's lots of different (managers), on the northern side, Murray Rd, all the way through to the boat ramp is all VicTrack managed land. So when people ring and say; "Can you get rid of the weeds on the VicTrack land?", we ring VicTrack and they say - "can you do it for us?" - and then we have an argument about who's going to pay for it.

So it's a very complex landscape, in terms of the ownership of the land and there has been a suggestion recently, I know put to the Minister for Environment, I think,[inaudible]..about getting rid of all those committees of management, and creating one single committee of management to take over and report to the State.

[Mayor Rule] ..it has been done in other areas..

[PLCA Secretary} Not Barwon Coast? Barwon Coast have they been approached?

[Martin Gill] They've been approached by GORCAPA (Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority), and they haven't been approached, I don't think because Geelong manages the piece of land between Barwon Coast and the Borough, the Collendina area, so again another sort of complication, but we do speak with Bellarine Bayside and Barwon Coast.

Q6. My name is John, and would like to think that we've got something where this money to do things and we go back a few years, and we did the active transport strategy, and now that came (with) recommendations about improvements with the safety for people moving and really identified that we do lack a lot of footpaths, and safe crossing projects locations on the roads of our Borough. Last year, I attended a briefing with TAC (Transport Accident Commission) was laying out their programs and their funding for local governments, for councils to do local road safety improvements and they were going to have money available to do that, and I would just like to know where the Council's really making, really getting into that money. And, as is forming bids, and get there (whatever) that

takes. We've done the strategy, done all that talking work, there's money there with Vic TAC, can we get on, and do with it? Because that work identified a lot of places where people would like to cross roads more comfortably, and more safely, and identified roads like our side of Fellows Rd, where we see there is no footpaths, and we see people with Pushers, and people in wheelchairs, wheeling down the traffic lanes.

So certainly it's a worthwhile activity and the and there is money available, it seems through tax. So, are we getting into it?

[Martin Gill] We have 3 grant applications ready. I think, one has already been submitted, so we just waiting for the results of those. We certainly, as you quite rightly point out, we have the Transport Strategy which we used to make the case in the funding applications, that we have submitted.

[Questioner] Can we hear a bit more about how it is going?

[Martin Gill] Certainly, we will update you on this.

7. [Grant Wiltshire, President Golightly Caravan Park Residents Association] Cr. Rule thank-you very much for your presentation, and insights, and not a question but a statement, we are here, and ready as an association to to meet with Council. We have enjoyed a 25 year relationship with the Council, and some of it's been very, very low ,when some of it's been very, very high, and we are very professional group, we have business plans which we work closely with Martin and the Councillors of the day.

So really pleased to hear up your comments about ageing caravan parks and we're ready to rock'n'roll and make it more financially stable for Council, and of course the more people there, the more money we spend in the Borough, so thank-you.

Q8 A Holiday resident down here in Point Lonsdale for many years, I reside down here in Point Lonsdale Rd, near Loch st. What we've observed during this summer period is that an increase in Road traffic along Point Lonsdale Rd, many of the motorists aren't observing the 40 (km/h) speed limit. I'm just wondering whether Council could consider putting up one of those electronic smiley face signs, which gives us read out to the approaching motorists, there needs to be some sort of traffic calming measures, I feel, put in place before - there's a lot of young children crossing the road - before somebody gets skittled. The question is really, what can council do?

[Mayor Rule] Thanks Tim. I think that is a great idea. We could have a look at the cost of it.

Q9. I have been a resident of the Borough for 47 years, how many staff are on Council please?

[Martin Gill] So at the moment there are 42.6 staff on council, and we provide just over 56 services. One officer does at least one or two roles, 80% of what we, or so, 70 to 80% of what we do is is regulated; in that we perform services that the State Government requires us to perform, things like environmental, health, planning, building surveying, and those sorts of things.

So I know that the new Council, and in the previous Council, we dropped, we lost 1.9 staff last year, and I know the new Council would be willing for me to make more cuts in staffing, and we kind of have to, because we're running out of money in the long term.

So, but at the moment we kind of just sit a little bit above average, in terms of staff, because of our small base, and the fact that no matter what, we still have to have a planner, we still have to have environmental health officer, we still have to have people would do the statutory duties so. But yeah, forward to you now.

Q10. [PLCA President] Just to go back to all the comments about the traffic. How do we teach people how to walk on roads that don't have footpaths?

[Mayor Rule] I didn't even know if people even know about walking on the left or the right do they?

[PLCA President] Well, I live on Glaneuse Road, and I watch them walking down to the back beach, all over the road, and you get people walking south, on the right hand side, so they're facing the oncoming traffic. Good idea! Then you get them on the left, when you get them walking down with their backs to the traffic, but also parallel to the people walking down, so therefore, cars have got little, or no chance, but one of the other things is are we going to have a speed limit on the streets that are not the main streets?

So, in all the residential, are we going to reduce the speed from 50, which is the State Government rule?

[Cr. Tolhurst] No speed reduction is planned at the moment.

[PLCA President] OK. Thank-you.

Q11. My question is not just addressed to council, but the Association, because I've been going through the Council plan from five years ago and in if there's a section which deals with COVID and post code. And one of the measures of succeeding with this particular goal, was to see less for lease signs on the properties around the Borough. Now I know, Point Lonsdale's a bit more vibrant, we don't see too many over there, but we certainly do see them in Queenscliff, over this side, my view is and this is to the Association, I don't know whether other Association Members who feel the same, I have the view that the greatest asset of the Borough has is its historical significance as well as its geographic location. Those two things bring very powerful tourist attraction features, I think a lot of people would argue it hasn't been done well. And it's right (at) this time here we've got the Borough full of people. We probably have quadrupled our population here for the moment. Then come March, and come the winter months, that will drop off significantly, and any businesses that might have kicked off now thinking businesses great ,will be struggling again back in June and through those periods. My question, is to the association as well as the members seated here, is how, and well, is there a willingness amongst the association here to have more tourism here during Winter?
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Do you want to have a lot of the empty residences here which are great, they're contributing all their solar panel energy back to the grid, and probably making us neutral in that respect, but they're sitting here unoccupied, and we don't have a lot of places for people to stay how do they feel about it. Firstly, trying to draw in more tourism here, and secondly, back to the the panel here ,what can be done? What can they do to make this happen? Because we do have the significant historic history here, I'm wearing a shirt from Nantucket, and I went over there in the middle of winter. It was a great place to visit, and I must have been the only tourist in that tiny little village there, that I had a great adventure, and I think we can offer this tourist, that's discerning and interested that same type of adventure coming here.

(Editor – Question not answered)

Q12. Good evening. My question's about the Council plan, and, I suppose the composition of the Council plan, and how the Local Government Act directs Council to fill it with certain requirements.

So what I want to understand is, Di, I like the idea that you want to clean out the Council plan, and issues that are related, that you can argue are state government, or with federal government, but for Martin, does a local Government Act direct Council to do service, and the reconciliation plan, and the Voice debate and all those sort of things? That's what I want to understand.

[Martin Gill] Certainly the the Act requires us to, so the language is very unusual, to promote climate charge and what and how you interpret that I'm not quite sure, but what many councils have done have taken on the role of within their own corporations, how they manage, or commit to managing, climate change in the things that they control.

So it's not direct, but there is some responsibility put on, I guess, for promotion and setting example. There's no direct requirement through Local Government Act to to do Reconciliation, or to do Action Plans around those sorts of issues.

There are many other Acts which require us to consider the views of the traditional owners, when we

do things. For instance, Coastal Management, sorry, Marine and Coastal Act, for instance.

DEECA, when they provide funds, want to know that we've been engaged with with the Traditional Owners around issues, especially foreshore areas, and areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity, which the Borough is mapped entirely, so there's no direct requirement, it's really about how you fulfil the obligations, as set out in other bits of legislation and you could choose to do that in lots of different ways.

The previous Council have chosen a couple of different ways, which we've implemented, and as we heard tonight the new Councils, having a bit of a think about whether or not the most effective ways to address those issues that we need to address.

[Mayor Rule] I can urge you again, to get involved, so that whatever you think should be there, is.

Q13. [PLCA Secretary] I've got a question for the mayor. Two parts.

Have you met with Councillor Kontelj, and Councillor Rowan Story?

And, what are your position on "One 3225"?

[Mayor Rule] Um, I haven't - Yeah, I've made with each of them, but not with regard to 3225. I've got some ideas that we need to work together with, and Rowan Story is friend of mine, so that'll be good. We can do that. I don't know that 3225 will ever happen. I don't think that the City of Great Geelong's going to let it go and if it does, I don't know why they would. So there was a lot of talk about the maintenance of the area - my sense of directions terrible - to the West of Fellows Rd.

[PLCA Secretary] You mean the Waterway?

[Mayor Rule] I mean the waterway. I mean those beautiful parks, I mean, those lovely roads. There was talk that Stockland, and then Mormac, did encourage the City of Greater Geelong to have a higher rate charge from day one to those properties. Their systems didn't allow them to include that, in their rating for that particular area, so it never happened.

And those that worked with Stockland, and later Mormac, have said when it's handed back to the City of Greater Geelong entirely, as it is from this year, it won't be maintained as well as it has been, because of the amount of money that's required.

And my daughter lives over there. It's a great area, but I don't think it would be part of 3225 or part of the Borough.

[Cr. Tolhurst] Laurie, can I ask a question in reverse, of the Committee, and the Association about about the issue of "One 3225"?

Is it something the committee talks about a lot, or the Association engage its members on, to the extent of the Council should be aware of?

[Audience member] Excuse me, before we go on, for the new people, what is "One 3225"?

[Cr. Tolhurst] Sorry!

[Audience Member] What are you talking about?

[Cr. Tolhurst] All of Point Lonsdale. And Queenscliff.

[Mayor Rule] So it's it's the Postcode 3225. So the Postcode, includes not just the Borough of Queenscliffe, but also those who are West of Fellows Rd. But those who are West of Fellows Rd, are in the City of Greater Geelong.

[Audience member] And is there a plan, that the Borough wants to take over?

[Mayor Rule] No, no, there isn't.

[Audience Member] What are we talking about?

[Mayor Rule] I think Laurie would have to tell you what the basis of what the question is.

[PLCA Secretary] There has been discussion for many years and there was a plebiscite, that was done by Bob Merriman back in the Day.

And there was another one, by another gentleman on Lawrence Rd, back in the day. And it was overwhelming, that those residents wanted to go into the Borough. But the Borough ratepayers have never been asked. There's also an issue with City of Greater Geelong, those ratepayers like me, we've got a debt over our head. So that debt, would have to come over to the Borough, I assume.

And as Councillor Rule says, and Geelong has not been sort of forthcoming, about letting it go, and also there's a big question mark about the waterways and the maintenance.

So, for many years in The Point, and Lonsdale Lakes, there was a rate charge that got rolled over every year for waterway maintenance.

Never got enacted, but it was there, two years ago, the Council struck it off. So there's no, and I believe, there's no more mechanism that they can call upon to charge those people extra.

But somewhere along the line, someone has to pay for that up keep of that Waterway, and it's quite a significant cost. It's very significant. So that's a big question mark, that back in the day, Councillor Merriman was trying to address.

There's also talk of taking all of the West of Fellows Rd, bar The Point because of the waterway, so that was also put on the table.

But of late, Councillor Ebbels came out and said that they should be one local government area, for all of Point Lonsdale.

Um, whether you agree with it or not, I don't know, but the Association's view is that we think we should all be in the one local government area to answer your question.

[Cr. Tolhurst] And as recently as last year, and it often pops up annually. There was a petition put to the Community as to whether people wanted to see 3225 unified, or at least the boundary changed, and that that position explored, so that would put us through to the State and with the State responding the Minister for Local Government Minister Horne.

[PLCA Secretary] Then it was listed 100 people replied, and Councillor, well not Councillor, she's Greens Upper House Member Sarah Mansfield put it up. It was less than 100 people signed it.

[Audience] So what's the present state? Is the Council trying to get this 3225...?

[Mayor Rule] No, no, it wasn't.

[PLCA President] It's the residents.

[Mayor Rule] No, no, it's just discussion in the community. In parts of the community.

[Another Audience Member] But the full financial implications need to be outlined…

[Mayor Rule] Absolutely.

[Another Audience Member] But they understand what the hell we're wanting to do…

[Mayor Rule] Absolutely.

[PLCA Secretary] On the other side of the coin, it is a much bigger rate base, that can contribute to the Borough, and perhaps, make it more viable. Perhaps, but there's also debt to come from over there as well. So, there's two sides of the story. It's complicated. There's been talk and Geelong have shut it down, a lot of the time, but as of late, you know some of the councillors talked about it, as well as with the previous Mayor.

[PLCA V/President] Can I just jump in, just in response to Isabelle's question, I suppose one of those discussions that PLCA and within the committee, is that this is an issue that needs to be brought to a head and a decision made, not have it burbling away forever, because it comes up periodically. So it's an issue that needs to be addressed. Do we, or don't we, and we put the issue to bed.

[Mayor Rule] Wasn't the Minister's statement enough to say that it wasn't going to happen.

[PLCA V/President] Didn't really get that degree of clarity.

[PLCA Secretary] When the minister came down and addressed a meeting, quite a few years ago, she said at the time that it had to be driven by the community. And they were going to go investigate, and she made a request for Geelong to talk to the Borough. I don't know whether that happened.

[Mayor rule] And so the recent attempt that went to the Minister of, as you said, less than. 100 people….

[PLCA Secretary] That was just a private individual putting up um and….

[PLCA V/President] That was nothing to do with the PLCA..

[PLCA Secretary]…..no, a Petition that upper House Member Sarah Mansfield….

[Mayor Rule] But PLCA didn't get behind it at all…

[PLCA Secretary] No. It was put up to Parliament and there was less than 100 people that signed it.

[Cr. Cameron] Can I just make comment on this subject on my past time being councillor, I spent a lot of time with Jeanette Powell on this exact argument and she said it will never happen.

Then, with Natalie Hutchins, in her car driving around everywhere, she said very clearly. So Jeanette Carr said Liberal Party will never do it, Natalie Hutchins, under the Labor Government, it will never happen.

So that's in my past 2 terms. So they both very clearly, made it very, you know, we were told it would not happen.

[PLCA Secretary] It's come up once before in Sunbury area and it was a bit of a shemozzle, and Minister Hutchins said at the time, we don't wanna do that again.

So this has to be really well thought out ,and really well done.

[Cr. Tolhurst] And any boundary change does set a precedent that a government of either side of the political spectrum would have to then be open to boundary extension..

[PLCA Secretary] Yeah, but but on the other hand, it's also said it is a bit crazy, that part of the town is in one council, part in the other.

[Mayor Rule] As was evident in covid, how crazy was that…

Q13. [PLCA Committee Member] Can I ask you a question about the Point Lonsdale Light House Precinct?

What we understand that there are two stages, and stage one was virtually 90% completed, and the money is expended. Stage 2 is a another $1M grant from state government, and that includes the refurbishment of the military installations on the coast. So that's pretty much accounted for, the the rebuild of the toilet, and down there has $160k in in your coffers to do that.

Where is the money coming from to refurbish the interior of the huts?

And once we find that money, what will happen to those huts?.

[Martin Gill]What we could take some of your $17 thousand, that would actually be a start.

Yeah, there there is no money at the moment to the interior design.

So we've done some work on what it would cost to refit the huts, to make them habitable by Community group or other groups.

And it's a couple of million dollars unfortunately. And there is some complexity around the heritage because you can't have vents, and air conditioning and all that sort of stuff.

So you have to be pretty clever about that. So ,what we need to determine is whether or not there's a demand in terms of use.

We understand if Community takes it on, they're not gonna be able to pay what it would cost to upgrade.

Is there a demand, amongst the community, for us to invest a significant amount of money to at least upgrade one of the Huts to make it habitable? So at the moment, there's no plans, there's no money, and, I guess, we just trying to finish off stage 2, because even that's a complicated kind of process in itself and we'll see what happens after that.

[PLCA Committee member] So in essence, we need another government grant of $1M ….?

[Mayor Rule] But that would be to do 1 Hut....

[Martin Gill] But then problem for us is, grants aren't that good. And I say that because, we love getting grants, but you build new things with grants, and then you guys have to keep paying for their maintenance and upkeep.

So, if we fix all those huts, it might be $1M to fix one of them. But it's going to be be $120k or $100k a year to maintain it. So, in 10 years, you gotta find another $1M out of the community. So, to keep that Hut open, and we're not gonna ask the community groups to pay that so we're ….

[Audience member] So, you're saying no existing business plan at all?

[Martin Gill] No. That said, the original Council decision was to knock down three of the Huts. That got changed through lots of different conversations.

Now, we've got 4 Huts that have been restored externally, but we don't have a business plan for what happens internally.

Q14. Martin, I know that councils between a rock and the hard place about the Lighthouse reserve, because I was going to ask, Di and the Councillors, going forward, when we have the strategic plan, we have an idea, we want to progress with something, how can we stop that from being derailed?

To me, the lighthouse reserve, was completely derailed by a small group. It went to the ratepayers, and they nominated that one Hut be kept and the rest go. Now, all of a sudden we have now got three Huts (Editor – incorrect, there are 4 Huts), an amount of money spent on them, it should never had happened. And now the Council's criticised because we didn't have a business plan, and we've got

no use for it. So, and all that is unfair on Martin, and his team, in the Council, and I lay the blame at a small reference group that's probably derailed the project.

Anyway, that's enough on that one.

I have another question, on the 3225

We've all seen the amount of houses that are built, and the population grown, because they are coming to utilise the assets that we, as ratepayers, are having to fund to maintain. Of course, they're not contributing to any of that.

And I guess that particular grievance from Isabelle, and my daughter, is their access to childcare. The Council owns the childcare facility in Queenscliff, Isabelle and my daughter can't get their children in there, because it's being used by people outside the Borough, so somewhere we have got to reign in and make sure the ratepayers get good value for what is going on.

[Cr. Tolhurst] Andrew; May I respond?...Di's grandchildren I think, also face the same challenge. Just as it relates to the Kinder point, Councillors put a unanimous motion, also resolved unanimously, to get a briefing on understanding the situation as it relates to the kinder. Because it's an interesting arrangement, by which Council owns the building, by which a private kindergarten service provider runs, but the land is managed by three separate land managers, and has not been consolidated, so there are some difficulties which councillors wanna get across to resolve and to understand the State's way of assessing need, service. Like funding for services, and improved building use, called the KISP, or the Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan, which at the moment, says there is enough spaces for the proposed, or perceived growth, in the Borough, but - not the we're necessarily challenging that data - but I think there's some...there's a discussion to be had with the various parties, given the situation you've described, Andrew, which is affecting me, and my family, as well.

[PLCA Secretary] We want to contribute, Isabelle!

[Cr Tolhurst] Do you?

[PLCA Secretary] Yes!

[Cr. Tolhurst] Let's hold the man together! Find a heads of agreement.

[PLCA Secretary] It's crazy. You pay for all the stuff that we use.

[Cr. Tolhurst] Thank you for your willingness, Laurie.

[PLCA President] Thank you everybody for the questions. Thank you to Mayor Rule, Councillor Tolhurst, Councillor Cameron, and Martin Gill for their contributions tonight.

12. Next Annual General Meeting: 7.30pm, Friday, *9 January, 2026.*

Next General Meeting: Monday 3rd February 7.30pm, Speaker **TBA**.

13. President Closing Remarks & Thanks.

14. Meeting Closed. 8.55pm.