



DSRA

DOUGLAS SHIRE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 46 257 394 374

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES: 15th July 2021

Venue: Palmer Sea Reef Golf Club

1. **Present:** Sylvia Healy, Jenni Sorensen, Kym Rowley, Lynette Percic, John Sullivan, Terry Melchert, Susan Rae, Marion Makin, Bob and Lucy Stanton.
2. **Apology:** Tony Muston, Chris Dahlberg, Elaine Montague
3. **Minutes of Previous General Meeting:**
Motion to accept minutes - Moved: J Sorensen, Seconded: J Sullivan, Carried.
4. **Financial Report:**
J Sorensen tabled the financial report (see attachment 1) –
 - a. Account balances as at 30 June 2021
 - i. General account – \$1417.79
 - ii. Stripe account - \$50.12
 - b. Motion to accept Financial Report – Moved: K Rowley, Seconded L Percic, Carried.
5. **Presidents Report:**
S Healy tabled the report (see attachment 2)-
 - a. Motion to accept President’s Report – Moved: J Sullivan, Seconded: J Sorensen, Carried.
6. **Amendments to the Constitution**
The Constitution of the Douglas Shire Ratepayers Association was tabled and S Healy spoke to the proposed amendments.
 - a. Motions to accept the amendments – Moved: K Rowley, Seconded J Sullivan, Carried.

President
Sylvia Healy
0417 867 268
President.DSRA@gmail.com

Secretary
Lyn Percic
0438 805 194
Secretary.DSRA1@gmail.com

Treasurer
Jenni Sorensen
0417 716 835
Treasurer.DSRA@gmail.com



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7. Election of Committee Members

a. There were five vacancies advertised of which four nominations were received by 8 July 2021, and one was called for and received at the meeting. As there were no more nominations it was declared the five nominations would be accepted to form the Committee.

i. Casual Vacancy x 2 – 1 Year Term -
L Percic, J Sorensen

ii. Full Term Vacancy x 3 – 2 Year Term
K Rowley, T Melchert, S Rae

8. Business Arising

a. There was no business arising.

9. Next Meeting

a. Will be scheduled 12 months on. (note these minutes will be confirmed at the next General Meeting)

10. Meeting Closed – 4:50pm

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ATTACHMENT 1

TREASURER'S REPORT 2021

15th July 2021

I present the 2021 financials to be tabled at the AGM on 15/07/2021.

The bank balance at 30/06/2021 was \$1,417.79 in our General Account and \$50.12 in our Stripe Account.

Our net profit to 30/06/2021 was \$255.79.

All figures in the financial accounts match banking information and statements.

Our turnover for the financial year ending 30th June 2021 is less than \$20,000, therefore the club accounts do not require auditing by an accountant. Up to \$20,000 is Level 3 and requires a Signed Statement by the Chairperson.

Jenni Sorensen

Treasurer

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ATTACHMENT 2

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The first 18 months of the Association has been a challenge, but we are proud of what has been achieved in such a short period of time, our achievements include:-

- Successfully lobbying for the introduction of the Concealed Water Leakage Policy so ratepayers have a cap when unknown leaks occur;
- Responsible for driving the review of the General Rate Category system now completed but surprisingly there was no consultation with the ratepayers and the main issue of concern "Units" still not addressed. We will continue to rigorously pursue council to address this inequity in the general rate system;
- Lobbied Council for the installation of bike racks at either end of the Flagstaff Hill walking track. A big tick to the Douglas Shire Council (DSC) CEO Mark Stoermer for such a quick response to our request;
- Successfully lobbied Council for the installation of "no camping" signs on Sands Street Port Douglas once again a quick response from the DSC CEO;
- Driving support for an RV Friendly Shire. The Council's recent community survey indicates overwhelming support in the community for this initiative, we now wait for some action;
- Successfully lobbied for the reversing of the surprising decision by Council staff to only allow Port Douglas Market stall owners a place in the market on alternate weeks during Covid restrictions;
- Hosted "Meet the Candidates" events for both the local Council elections and the recent State elections.

We could not have done this without all the hard work and commitment from inaugural members and more recent committee members. A special thanks goes to Can Kara for donating so much of his time and expertise to assist in the set up of our website and management system, we could not have done it without him. We also thank Marion and Paul Maken from FAB FM for their ongoing support and for helping us get our message to the community.



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This is a time when we review our performance against the Association's purpose and I am confident we are on track and in line with the Constitution, particularly in the following areas:-

- ✓ ensuring all activities/decisions/actions made by local government are undertaken in an open & transparent manner – while Council has improved significantly in this area, however there is still a lack of engagement in a meaningful way on important matters. DSRA will continue its work in holding Council accountable in this area;
- ✓ rigorously working for improved democratic process in local government by engaging with ratepayers, disseminating information on key decisions to actively encourage informed debate and influence Council decisions – we are focusing on using social media to reach our audience and bring local government matters to public attention. Will continue our activity in this area;
- ✓ ensuring value for money is delivered for rates and charges by diligent management of the Douglas Shire resources and the most efficient and cost-effective operations of local government – we have and will continue to look closely at the size and cost of DSC operations. At a time when we all are being asked to tighten our purse strings because of Covid, Council needs to show that it is doing the same. The increase in funding to the TPDD (\$1.2M, 3 year contract) at a time when “destination marketing” in the current Covid environment is hardly a priority, making this decision difficult to understand particularly when 1.5 positions were created in Council supposedly on the savings from the previous cuts to TPDD funding;
- ✓ ensuring local government are held accountable for generating revenue from sources other than rates to support the region - DSRA will continue challenge the Council's “Debt Policy” when low interest State Government loans to fund infrastructure i.e. water, are there for the taking (see our article “good debt vs bad debt”).

The DSRA provides an important voice for ratepayers. We bring important issues to the public arena for robust but respectful debate and hold our Council accountable for the decisions they make. I sincerely thank our Committee members, past and present for their support and hard work and look forward to the year ahead.

Sylvia Healy – President

Douglas Shire Ratepayers Association

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www.douglasratepayers.org.au



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