



Our Ref: 17.18.1.1 O224970

11 October 2022

Ian Doyle OAM
Media Coordinator
Tacoma Preservation Society
Via email dms@iinet.net.au

Dear Ian

RE: Correspondence to Candidates in City of Port Lincoln election

I write to you in my capacity as CEO of the City of Port Lincoln in relation to correspondence that you have recently sent to several (and possibly all) candidates in the upcoming City of Port Lincoln local government elections, dated 30 September 2022.

Please note that there are two parts to my correspondence as follows:

- general information about the challenges for candidates in responding to your binary request for a position in support or against your proposition, and
- some further background relating to the matter raised by you from Council's (not the candidates) perspective.

Candidates in local government elections

Although it may seem reasonable for individuals and groups within the community to seek a position in favour or against a particular matter from candidates in local government elections, unlike state or federal elections (who generally make election promises and other statements during election campaigns), local government candidates operate under different legislation, particularly if they become elected to council.

When matters are presented to the Council, as a governing body, for consideration and in accordance with the decision-making principles which apply to Elected Members at Council meetings, members are required to participate in decision-making without a pre-determined position or bias in respect to the matter before the Council.

That is, if a candidate declares a position on this issue now, and is subsequently elected (or re-elected) to Council, they will, by their response to your request, place themselves in a position of conflict.

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This is because having publicly stated a position on the matter, an impartial, fair-minded person could reasonably be taken to consider they have a conflict in terms of personal objectives rather than their public duty.

There will then be associated obligations for those members to manage such a perception, which may include removing themselves from decision making on the issue.

Ultimately, of course, any individual candidate response to you is a matter of decision for that candidate to make, I am simply writing to advise you that it is not unreasonable for a candidate to decline to comment for the above-mentioned reasons and to ensure that any future decision making that they need to make in relation to this matter is unencumbered by bias or potential conflict of interest.

Council response to your correspondence

I now write with specific regard to your issue as raised in your correspondence and respond on behalf of Council, noting that Council is currently in caretaker mode due to the local government elections. Please note that this is also by no means a comprehensive or all-encompassing response.

The matter relating to the Tacoma, is one that I have discussed with yourself and others at the Tacoma Preservation Society in the past year, and there are several concurrent matters that need to be considered before any further deliberations are taken with regards to your request to either upgrade the pontoon at the Lincoln Cove Marina (LCM) and/or provide permanent mooring for the Tacoma at the pontoon.

Some matters that are related and need consideration as part of the broader plans for the LCM area which will have an impact on any potential upgrade and use of the current pontoon area adjacent the Marina Hotel are as follows:

- Progression of the Precincts Master Plan work that was previously completed by Council, and involved three areas, the foreshore, CBD and the marina. The foreshore upgrades have been funded, work will be required in the CBD within the coming 12 months due to the timing of Department for Infrastructure & Transport (DIT) upgrade works to roads and roundabouts through the Liverpool St precinct. Council has allocated \$500K in the Long-Term Financial Plan in 2026-2027 to progress works in the LCM.
- Development of Council's Marine and Coastal Facilities Strategy, which will occur over the coming months, and will determine service levels and investment requirements for Council's marine facilities which includes Billy Lights Point, Axel Stenross and the LCM.

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- Planning work with the current users of the LCM, to ascertain whether the LCM can continue to meet their needs, now that it has been identified by the DIT (in recent weeks) that an investment of between \$18M to \$20M will be required to renew the service wharf area within the LCM.
- Dissolution of the Tripartite Agreement (TA) which was developed when the LCM was created in 1985/1986 but which now prohibits longer term reform to the management model and operation of the LCM.

Although I suspect you will suggest that the pontoon upgrade can be considered regardless of the above, I beg to differ, and feel that a wholesome view of the future of the LCM needs to be considered before decisions are made on upgrading any infrastructure within that area.

Over the course of the next few weeks, I will be meeting with key seafood and aquaculture associations who use the LCM and we will seek to facilitate a workshop or similar in March 2023 in conjunction with the DIT, Primary Industries SA and key users of the facilities to broadly discuss future directions and requirements to support those industries, which will include a spatial analysis of the use of land, water and availability of both within the LCM. From my perspective, this is a key activity that needs to occur before any consideration for upgrading the pontoon is made by Council.

Before this occurs however, I would like to invite the Tacoma Preservation Society to present to Council on-site at the current mooring location for the Tacoma at Sandy Point Place, as part of a broader elected member tour of points of interest, that will be held in early February 2023, likely the second week.

Should you wish to take the opportunity to meet with the entire council and to present the Tacoma story and proposal to them on site in February 2023, please advise at your earliest convenience so that we can finalise dates and times and have this locked into elected member calendars once the election is concluded.

Should you wish to discuss this opportunity any further, please don't hesitate to contact me, or alternatively, please coordinate the visit via Amanda Pearce, Executive Assistant on 08 8621 2325.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Morgan
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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