



- 4.1.c Emphasis was placed on the Pony Club/Cemetery turnoff and an entry lane to the south from Ryrrie/Main Street onto the highway.
- 4.1.d Mr Watt also stated that the RTA would visit the area and inspect the other sites to see if anything can be done to improve safety, including more signage for advanced warning.
- 4.1.e Mr Watt was also aware of the Pony Club turnoff issue since he had a record of previous approaches including a recent one from Mr Steve Whan MP and he stated that they were investigating the problem.

4.1.f **Outcomes**

A productive meeting with positive reactions from the RTA/Minister. We hope that they are genuine in their concerns and that they will conduct works that will improve safety along this stretch of the highway.

**4.2 Mr F. E. Sartor**

4.2.a **Matters for Discussion.**

Local Environmental Plans (LEP's). Need for flexibility; communications between ratepayers, council and D of P; monopolistic relationship with little recourse for redress; effect on personal, business and community entities caused by unwarranted delays in approvals; sub-divisions and zoning.

- 4.2.b Mr Sartor stated that the NSW Government was not in favour of further rural sub-divisions since they reduced available agricultural/grazing land and imposed greater costs on the State in the supply of services. He was also reserved in his opinions on village expansions stating that location in relation to the nearest city/town was a critical factor as well as considerations regarding other outlying villages in the same region.

- 4.2.c His views on LEPs were helpful in clarifying matters.

- i. it was necessary to have a comprehensive template on which Councils could base their LEPs since not all councils could be trusted to make sensible decisions regarding developments in their shires.
- ii. Over 5000 pages of LEPs had been rejected as being unacceptable, unworkable, etc and that delays in producing the template were due to the difficulties in designing an acceptable model. He was not happy with the current process and was setting up an independent panel to design LEPs and present them to the government for approval.

**4.3 Mr KA Hickey**

4.3.a **Matters for Discussion**

Disproportionate distribution of Council expenditure in relation to rates paid

- 4.3.b Mr Hickey was not at all sympathetic to the problems that rural ratepayers face in relation to a visible return for rates paid. His attitude was very much in line with the Cooma-Monaro Council's responses. Rural rates are paid for the benefit of the whole shire community and many of the services provided are centralised in Cooma, being the municipal centre of the Shire. If rural residents want to benefit from these services, they should be prepared to travel to Cooma. If they are not happy with this situation, they should move back to a city or town where their services are at their door.
- 4.3.c Regarding accountability of council staff, he recommended an approach to the Mayor and, if still dissatisfied, then an approach to the Minister for a hearing.
- 4.3.d On the subject of representation on Council, we pointed out that the votes were not in the rural areas but in the town and so it was nearly impossible to win a seat. He rejected the possibility of the formation of wards in the Shire as this system could not be introduced without a referendum and he was not prepared to go down this path.
- 4.3.e It was also an impractical suggestion to introduce separate councils for rural and municipal areas since rural areas would not be able to raise sufficient rates to run their regions. Likewise with separate accounts.

4.3.f The '97' holding was discussed and presented as being an unjust and inequable policy. Further information to be provided on Council's policies on residential development in rural areas (Peter Bobroff).

**4.4 That the report be accepted.**

Moved: V. Drew                      Seconded: C. Birch  
Carried.

**4.5 Proposal:** That M. Hughes on behalf of the MRCA Inc. compose a media release on the meeting with the NSW Ministers.

Moved: R. Stone                      Seconded: C. Birch  
Carried.

**5. General Business**

**5.1 Michelago Hall:** C. Birch to pursue the ongoing maintenance issues and to offer to take on the management of the hall.

5.1.a R. Stone to approach J. Ryrie President of the Hall Committee to discuss the issue.

**5.2 Harvey Norman BBQ:** Reminder of the upcoming MRCA Inc. and MRFB Harvey Norman BBQ in September.

**5.3 Service Station BBQ's Proposal:**

That the MRCA Inc. does not pursue the Michelago service station BBQ's during winter.

Proposed: R. Stone                      Seconded: V. Drew  
Carried.

**5.4 David Madew Proposal:**

That V. Drew contacts David Madew inviting him to respond to our concerns at the MRCA Inc. October meeting.  
TBA.

**5.5 Insurance**

Elders Insurance Cooma quote.  
M. Hughes to investigate.

**6. Next Meeting**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006, Michelago Community Hall @ 7.30pm

**Meeting closed: 9.30**