

Queenstown Regional Community Forum

November
2008

Premier's Message

I am determined to be a Premier who is connected and listens to his public. Importantly Tasmanians need to feel close to the political process and have the opportunity to pitch their ideas directly to the senior decision makers within State Government. A democracy is all about having a voice and a government's job is to pay attention to that voice.

It is therefore extremely important for me and my Labor colleagues to personally hear the many current issues that face Tasmanian communities. Especially communities like the West Coast, that are looking towards infrastructure renewal in an expanding resources boom.

The Community Forum was a great opportunity for my ministers and heads of departments to see, first hand the challenges and opportunities of this wonderful area. All Tasmanians should have the chance to access my cabinet and discuss issues concerning their communities and the State as a whole.

I would like to thank all the people of Queenstown who took the time to attend the forum and to those who sought individual appointments with ministers.

David Bartlett
Premier of Tasmania

Issues Raised

- The Premier said that the main streets of both Queenstown and Roseberry will be considered for funding from the Government's Urban Renewal Fund following a request from the Council who believe main street makeovers would provide a boost to the local communities.
- Queenstown will be considered for a Learning and Information Network Centre (LINC) and the Premier hopes to have an answer early next year. The request is high on the list and would provide economic and social growth.
- The Council proposed that the mining royalties be returned to the West Coast. The Premier said that mining royalties had jumped from \$10 million to \$36 million per annum over the last six to eight years and if there were a downturn in the mining industry, the council's proposal would lead to a steep decline in its funding.
- The Council would like more Crown Land to be released on the West Coast. Minister Llewellyn said that the Government sold more than 30 properties in the region last year and a further 30 were being processed for this year.
- Lake Margaret was suggested for a potential tourist site or educational camp for children. The Minister for Tourism, Michelle O'Byrne welcomes the community interest and is happy for Tourism Tasmania to discuss the proposal with the West Coast Council in further detail.
- Improved health services for West Coast residents was also raised including the need for appropriately trained paramedics. Deputy Premier and Minister



for Health, Lara Giddings, said that recruiting a second paramedic was high on the list of priorities for her Department and that just over \$22 million would be spent over four years by both the State and Federal Governments (State \$12m, Federal \$10m) to implement improved patient transport and accommodation, particularly for people from the North and North West.

Out and about on the West Coast

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn handed over ownership of the West Coast Pioneers Memorial Museum at Zeehan and a \$177,000 cheque for its maintenance on behalf of the Tasmanian Government to the local operators, West Coast Heritage Ltd.

West Coast Heritage has operated the public museum successfully for several years and the display of mining equipment, minerals, machinery and historical paraphernalia is one of the best in Tasmania, receiving national recognition. Mr Llewellyn said that the title of the property is being transferred to provide security of tenure for the Museum, which will continue to operate as a public facility. assist with maintenance.

Premier David Bartlett was on hand to help celebrate 50 years of public education at Mountain Heights School and the history of schooling on the West Coast and unveiled a commemorative plaque.



The State Government provided a grant of \$3,000 to help replace the school's old bus following a request from Labor Member for Lyons, Heather Butler. The Premier and Mrs Butler paid tribute to the great community fundraising efforts made by the West Coast community toward a new school bus.

Queenstown Senior Citizens Club

Premier David Bartlett and Labor Member for Lyons, Heather Butler gave \$1,700 on behalf of the State Government, to the Queenstown Senior Citizens Club to assist with painting and restoration work on the Queenstown Senior Citizens Club.



The Premier would also like to give a special thanks to the Mountain Heights Concert Band for performing at the Queenstown Community Forum.