

TASSO 2016
ANNUAL CONFERENCE &
AGM

SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST
BURNIE HIGH SCHOOL
Fidler Street, Cooee.

AGENDA ITEMS

ACTION MOTION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

ITEM 1

PROPOSED BY: Boat Harbour Primary School Association

CONTACT PERSON: Angie Diffley, Chairperson **Phone:** 0429 026 738

SUBJECT: **SAFETY CONCERNS - VEHICLE ACCESS TO BOAT HARBOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL**

PREAMBLE:

The BHPS School Association members have ongoing concerns regarding the safety of the vehicle entrance to our school. The entrance is located on the busy Bass Highway, there is no slip way and the proximity to the Boat Harbour Store adds further to the traffic risks at this junction.

This has been an ongoing issue with a number of accidents and even more numerous near misses occurring at this site. There has been previous consultation with all levels of Government since 2010. Unfortunately, there has been no action taken to reduce the risks.

This matter has again been brought to the fore, as there has been a further accident occurring on 26th May 2016. A parent waiting to turn right into the school was rear-ended. On this occasion, there were only minor injuries to those involved, but the car was a write-off.

As a School community we remain concerned that it is only a matter of time before a more serious incident occurs.

This google map of the school shows proximity to Boat Harbour shop.

It also shows the paddock to the left which is owned by the school and could be utilised to make space for a slip lane if the entrance was moved to the left.



MOTION:

That this conference demand the Department of State Growth create a slip lane to ensure the safety of BHPS families accessing the school and that of other road users.

ACTION MOTION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM ITEM 2

PROPOSED BY: Richmond Primary School Association Inc.

CONTACT PERSON: Klara Suessenbach **Phone:** 0498 636 111

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED CHANGES TO MINIMUM SCHOOL STARTING AGE**

PREAMBLE:

Under the Draft Education Bill 2016 the minimum school starting age (Prep) for Tasmania would be lowered to 4 years and 6 months, with a flow-on to Kindergarten entry age of 3 years and 6 months.

We believe that this change will have a significant negative impact on our schools, the staff, our children and our families. The care of full time students at this younger age will put significant additional strain on both school infrastructure and staff.

We believe that in many cases this change will radically reduce valuable parent-child time during a key developmental period. The combination of these factors will, in many cases lead to inferior outcomes for our children.

TASSO Policy currently states:

SECTION J EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

1. All children attending state schools in Tasmania should have the opportunity to attend Prep or Kindergarten before entering Grade 1.
2. TASSO supports the following school entry ages:
 - (a) entry age for Kindergarten be 4 years
 - (b) entry age for Prep be 5 years
 - (c) entry age for 1st Grade Primary be 6 years

Furthermore these ages be attained by the 1st January.

MOTION:

That this Conference writes to the Minister for Education and Training reiterating Section J, paragraph 2 of TASSO current policy and raising the Conference's concerns with the changes to the minimum school starting age contained in the Draft Education Bill 2016, including that the changes will:

- **have a significant negative impact on our schools, the staff, our children and our families;**
- **put significant additional strain on both school infrastructure and staff; and**
- **in many cases radically reduce valuable parent-child time during a key developmental period.**

ACTION MOTION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

ITEM 3

PROPOSED BY: Newstead College Association

CONTACT PERSON: Peter Kearney **Phone:** 0417 017 857

SUBJECT: **TASMANIAN COLLEGES**

PREAMBLE:

TASSO current policy:

5. Retention in Years 11 and 12

- 5.1 TASSO believe the government should make available accommodation, transport and allowances to ensure rural and remote students have equal access to secondary colleges.
- 5.2 TASSO believe that both district schools and high schools in country areas should be funded to enable those schools to offer a full range of year 11 and 12 subjects to allow students to remain within their own communities.
- 5.3 TASSO believe all students should be encouraged to complete years 11 and 12 or a recognised educational pathway

It is important that TASSO has a clear, documented policy concerning the place of Colleges in the Tasmanian Education system. Many of us had assumed that TASSO would already have such a policy. Our current policy on Colleges is sound and by passing this motion you will in fact be re-affirming our current policy. In fact, the current policy implies TASSO's support without specifically stating it. This motion affirms TASSO's support for our colleges as the provider of Year 11 and 12 education without contradicting our other policy listed under 5.2. That is country schools should provide the option of Year 11 and 12 as a choice.

Why is such a motion required?

1. To make clear that TASSO fully supports the continued operation of our colleges.
2. To stand up to the current political campaign that puts at risk the capacity of our colleges.

As indicated above TASSO has an implied policy but needs a clearly stated policy. Also, continued operation of our colleges does not mean colleges gradually dismantled by funding cuts, damaging policy and hostile bureaucrats and minister. The motion is about support for colleges that are going to thrive into the future, properly funded, supported by the bureaucrats and a Minister committed to their future.

There is currently a campaign coming from well-placed individuals, from some parts of the University, from well-meaning civic leaders and others that asserts that we would have a better education system if Year 11 and 12 was placed in all High Schools. The campaign is, in some places, very critical of colleges, implying but never quite saying, that we would be better off without colleges. The campaign implies that we can have Year 11 and 12 in urban high schools and sustain our colleges. This motion makes it clear that support for and funding our colleges, now and into the future, comes first.

Everybody is entitled to a view. However, Tasmanian education in the last 15 years has been be-devilled by these top down campaigns to make major and structural changes to our education system that have proved to be expensive and ill considered. The last one was Tasmania Tomorrow, involving the colleges and leading to widespread disruption. Where is it now? Disbanded.

This motion makes it clear that TASSO supports our colleges. It makes it clear that TASSO will be vigilant in our support of our colleges and will not allow them to be undermined.

MOTION:

TASSO affirm its absolute support for the continuing operation of Colleges in Tasmania, including offering at least the current levels of curriculum, services and activities.

ACTION MOTION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

ITEM 4

PROPOSED BY: Newstead College Association

CONTACT PERSON: Peter Kearney **Phone:** 0417 017 857

SUBJECT: **IMPACT ON COLLEGES OF THE EXTENSION OF YEARS 11 AND 12**

PREAMBLE:

Tasmanian Education has seen many, too many, changes to structures and operations over the last 15 years. These changes have rarely been fully detailed and spelt out before they were implemented.

As they are put in place, the proposed changes were accompanied by press releases, statements of support from worthy citizens and experts and followed by early accounts of their success. What did not happen was a careful consideration and analysis of the proposed change. An analysis that, if the results indicate, is entitled to conclude that the change needs major change or withdrawal.

Regrettably, the track record of educational change over the last 15 years is poor. We believe we can do better with any change process.

There are changes proposed for the delivery of Year 11 and 12 education in Tasmania. These changes are defended on the grounds that they are "Government policy".

TASSO supports the extension of year 11 and 12 to country high and district schools. It does not support the extension of Year 11 and 12 to urban high schools.

In part the TASSO policy is driven by our support for the colleges and our legitimate fear that current government policy will damage the colleges, both now and into the future.

These motions are seeking the support of the Legislative Council to have a good look at this whole area. We wish to avoid risking damage to our college system. The Legislative Council is in a position to subject this whole change in Year 11 and 12 to serious analysis.

On the basis of what has occurred in rolling out this policy to date, some really good outcomes have occurred in some situations. However that is not the case in others. So a Legislative Council committee would have some starting points. This is about our students, which is what TASSO is all about.

Had such a process taken place in the early days of Tasmania Tomorrow, the result may not have been so damaging.

MOTION:

TASSO calls on the Tasmanian Legislative Council to establish a select committee to examine:

- **the current impact on existing Colleges of government policies with regard to the extended provision of Year 11 and 12.**
- **the impact of future policy and plans is likely to have on existing Colleges with regard to the proposed further extension of Year 11 and 12 provision into more schools especially urban high schools.**

**ACTION MOTION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM
ITEM 5**

PROPOSED BY: Lilydale District School Parent and Friends

CONTACT PERSON: Evelyn Archer, President **Phone:** 0428 821 339

SUBJECT: **DISTRICT SCHOOLS**

PREAMBLE:

District schools like Lilydale are at times disadvantaged when policies and the like are discussed and put together.

District schools miss out on some programs and funding that is only allocated to primary or high schools, this can be due to forgetting district schools or not allowing time for the relevant discussion.

An example of this is the stage 1 and stage 2 roll out of School Health Nurses to 61 Tasmanian schools, none of which are district schools.

MOTION:

That this conference demand that the Department of Education Secretary ensures that District Schools are included when forming policies, programs and funding models for Primary schools and High schools.

TASSO POLICY MOTION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

ITEM 6

PROPOSED BY: TASSO Management Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Peter Kearney, Northern Delegate

Phone: 0417 017 857

SUBJECT: TASSO TRANSPORT POLICY

SECTION: L TRANSPORT, 1. School Buses

PREAMBLE:

TASSO School Buses Policy currently states:

1. School Buses

1.1 TASSO believe

- (a) the Government should provide free transport to all students attending the nearest or designated Government school of appropriate level and that the safety of students in transit is of the utmost importance.

For students in Kindergarten to Year 12, TASSO policy for many years has been for transport (usually bus transport) to be free for children or students attending their local school.

That current policy has had to use the words "nearest or designated government school" to allow for some necessary flexibility. Examples of situations that need some flexibility are students who attend special schools, students who change schools at the direction of the Education Dept. Secretary or students where a school cannot provide for all the specific needs of a student. It also takes account of enrolment policies at our Colleges.

Now extended provision is being made at local Year 7 to 10 schools for extending Year 11 and 12 courses, currently in country and peri urban areas. TASSO does not want our School bus policy to be interpreted as support for removing existing free bus transport for students who intend to, or are currently attending Colleges. TASSO will not support additional costs being incurred by students who wish to continue to attend government colleges.

It should be noted that TASSO supports the provision of Year 11 and 12 courses in district schools and high schools in country areas. Such provision is only possible with the support given to these country schools by year 11 and 12 colleges.

Further it should also be noted that TASSO does not support the extension of Year 11 and 12 to urban Year 7 to 10 High Schools.

MOTION:

That Section L 1.1 (a) of the Transport Policy be amended as follows:

1. School Buses

1.1 TASSO believe

- (a) the Government should provide free transport to all students attending the nearest or designated Government school of appropriate level and that the safety of students in transit is of the utmost importance. Where Year 11 and 12 is being provided at the local school, free bus transport must be provided to that local school and the designated Year 11 and 12 government College.

TASSO POLICY MOTION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

ITEM 7

PROPOSED BY: TASSO Management Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Peter Kearney, Northern Delegate **Phone:** 0417 017 857

SUBJECT: **TASSO POLICY**

SECTION: **I, THE COMMUNITY AND ITS SCHOOLS, 1.3.**

PREAMBLE:

Current TASSO Policy states:

SECTION I

1. General

- 1.3 Parents have the right to:
- (a) a government school system which is open, free, secular and appropriate to the child's needs;
 - (b) send their child/children to the state school of their choice;

With the Education Act under review it is important, more than ever, that we seek the endorsement from our members of the current TASSO Policy, Section I, The Community and Its Schools, 1.3.

This policy covers the right of parents to enrol their child/children at a school of their choice. TASSO must ensure our policies are a contemporary reflection of parents' beliefs.

By endorsing this policy the Management Committee can re-iterate this policy to the Minister confident that the view of parents on this matter has not changed.

MOTION:

That this Conference reiterate Section I, 1.3 of current TASSO Policy

TASSO MOTION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

ITEM 8

PROPOSED BY: TASSO Management Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Trinette Newell, Southern Coordinator **Phone:** 0447 464 857

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS - INCORPORATION**

PREAMBLE:

TASSO included the following information in our submission to the Education Draft Bill 2016:

99.2 The school association of a school is to be an unincorporated association established in accordance with the regulations.

The purpose for requiring school associations to no longer be incorporated has been met with some scepticism. Our members are very resistant to operating as un-incorporated entities.

If however, school associations are forced to un-incorporate the current requirements attached to incorporation must be mirrored in the regulations.

Without the requirements of Incorporation how will the financial transparency of school associations be ensured?

*We note 102. Inspection and audit of accounts of school associations.
However this does not cover annual financial auditing requirements.*

Will School Associations as unincorporated bodies continue to be able to operate with a level of autonomy?

- If it is intended the School Association is ultimately to become part of the Education Department, will it as a group, and its members as individuals, be bound by the same constraints as those employed by the Department (State Service Act) effectively removing their independent voice?

School Associations often apply for community, state or federal grants to benefit the school, eligibility criteria requires applicants to be an incorporated body. It will present a significant loss to schools if their associations can no longer source funding through these valuable opportunities.

The Education Department must also create a process for school associations to move from incorporated entities to unincorporated groups that is not cumbersome and does not create an extra financial burden or large administrative requirement.

*Furthermore TASSO sought legal advice on the un-incorporation of school associations. **Based on the legal advice received TASSO have accepted the provisions for individual coverage (clause 104) but maintain that School Associations must be able to be incorporated.***

MOTION:

That this Conference supports the TASSO Management Committee's position that School Associations must be able to incorporate if they so choose.