



MINUTES

10 May 2019 - Warwick

Venue:	Southern Downs Regional Council Chamber, 64 Fitzroy Street, Warwick	Date:	Friday 10 May 2019
Chair:	Mayor Peter Petty - Tenterfield	Time:	10.05 am
Attendees:	Mayor Peter Petty, Cr Brian Murray, CE Terry Dodds, Noelene Hyde	Tenterfield Shire Council	
	Cr Kate Dight	Inverell Shire Council	
	Cr Stephen Ritchie, GM Lester Rodgers	Moree Plains Shire	
	Cr Joan White	Goondiwindi Regional Council	
	CEO Matthew Magin	Balonne Shire Council	
	Cr John Coulton, GM Max Eastcott	Gwydir Shire Council	
	Cr Neil Meiklejohn, Mayor Tracy Dobie, CEO David Keenan	Southern Downs Regional Council	
	GM Greg Ingham	Walgett Shire Council <i>By Teleconference</i>	
	Mr James McTavish	Cross Border Commissioner	
	Ms Trudi Bartlett	RDA Darling Downs South West	
	Mr Ray Lambert – SDRC Local Laws Coordinator	Guest Speaker	
	Mr Scott Smith – CEO, Council of Mayors, SE Qld	Guest Speaker	
	Mrs Kelly Foran – Friendly Faces Helping Hands Foundation	Guest Speaker	
File Ref:	NAM2019143		

1.	<p>Meeting Open: 10.05 am Welcome: Mayor of Southern Downs Regional Council, Cr Tracy Dobie, extended a welcome to Warwick and SDRC. Mayor Dobie spoke about the current drought situation which is affecting all Councils in the BROC Region, stressing that it has moved from a feed drought to a more catastrophic water drought. Mayor Dobie advised that SDRC are approaching the water shortage as a “disaster” event.</p>		
2.	<p>Apologies:</p>		
	Cr Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council	
	Cr Frances Young	Gwydir Shire Council	

	Cr Manuel Martinez	Walgett Shire Council
	Stewart Berryman	Inverell Shire Council
	Hon Adam Marshall MP	Member for Northern Tablelands
	Nathan Axelsson	RDA Northern Inland
	Russell Stewart	RDA Northern Inland
	Linda Keeshan	QLD Cross Border Representative
	<p>Moved that the Apologies be accepted: Gwydir Seconded: SDRC CARRIED</p>	
3.	Minutes of Meeting: 15 February 2019 (Inverell)	
3.1	Matters Arising from the Minutes	
3.1.1	<p>BROC Transport Plan – Information to be followed up and clarified. Noted that the Bruxner Way may be incorporated in the State Government’s Regional Road Network.</p> <p>Lester Rodgers advised the IPWEA Road Congress being held in Sydney on Monday, 3 June 2019.</p>	
	<p>Moved that the Minutes be accepted: Inverell Seconded: Goondiwindi CARRIED</p>	
4.	Correspondence	
4.1	<p>Inwards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Statements Warwick Credit Union & National Australia Bank • Fixed Term Certificate – Warwick Credit Union • Hon Mark Furner MP – Response – Operational Costs – Meat Processing Industry (letter tabled) 	
4.2	<p>Outwards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheque Payment – Top of the Town Motel • Hon David Littleproud MP – Murray Darling Basin Plan – Proposed Review • Hon Adam Marshall MP & Others – Operational Costs – Meat Processing Industry • Issue of Tax Invoices for Annual BROC Membership 	
4.3	Matters arising from Correspondence:	
4.3.1	<p>Cr Coulston sought clarification of payments for dinner on the evening prior to BROC meetings – referred to General Business.</p>	
	<p>Moved that correspondence be accepted: Balonne Seconded: Inverell CARRIED</p>	
5.	Financial Report as at 8 February 2019	
5.1	<p>Transactions since last meeting: <u>National Australia Bank – 69-022-2187</u></p>	
	Opening Balance as at 12 February 2019	\$5,109.26

Cheque Payment – Top of the Town Motel Restaurant	\$ 320.00
Moree Plains Shire Council – Annual Membership	\$ 500.00
Goondiwindi Regional Council – Annual Membership	\$ 500.00
Interest	\$ 0.11
Balonne Shire Council – Annual Membership	\$ 500.00
Inverell Shire Council – Annual Membership	\$ 500.00
Gwydir Shire Council – Annual Membership	\$ 500.00
Balance as at 11 April 2019	\$7,289.37

National Australia Bank – Term Deposit 42-388-8697

Lodged 27 Sept to 27 Dec 2018 (3 month)	\$10,000.00
Re-invested 27 December 2018 for 12 months @ 2.75%	\$10,052.36
Maturity Date – 27 December 2019	

Warwick Credit Union – 400379187

Closing Balance 31 March 2019	\$ 0.18
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Warwick Credit Union – Fixed Term Deposit 100005924

Opening Balance as at 31 March 2019	\$20,840.29
Interest Paid 2.25%	\$115.62
Reinvested 22 April 2019	\$20,955.91
Maturity Date – 22 July 2019	

Moved that the Financial Report be accepted: Balonne
Seconded: Inverell

CARRIED

6. Guest Speakers

6.1 **Mr James McTavish – Cross Border Commissioner/Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator** advised that with current water issues, there is an enormous amount of activity going on.

Cross Border Issues – The Cross Border portfolio has been moved from Dept Premier & Cabinet to Department of Planning, Industry & Environment. The push for functional economic regions is being received and accepted by DIRC however there are issues with Treasury in the way regional infrastructure is assessed.

An Infrastructure Fund of \$12m has been allocated for spending in the next term of NSW State Government. This is available for bridges, tourism and investment in roads and related infrastructure but requires a co-contribution.

Emergency resources are separate across the States but there is a need to ensure that there is a greater commitment for access and shared resources.

Regional Town Water Supply Issues

Ongoing issues have been made worse by changes in the NSW Government and have been highlighted by the drought. There is a need to address issues of infrastructure and policy while we have the opportunity and the issue is current.

	<p>Water administration and licensing is intensely bureaucratic and inefficient in NSW. There is substantial risk of failure of water dependant industry and a high variability in water resources in various areas.</p> <p>Financial sustainability in the water space is very difficult together with a lack of planning for water availability and poor co-ordination within and between catchment areas.</p> <p>There is a poor understanding in metropolitan areas of the water needs of regional areas, an issue regarding complexities of water within Aboriginal communities and the fact that hobby farmers and owners of large urban properties are not able to access the same support as primary producers.</p> <p>The NSW Government is committed to address issues of local water utilities in terms of availability, safety and acceptability and is committed to work with Local Government to program future needs however the Government agencies need a big shift in culture.</p> <p>In closing, Mr McTavish advised that Federally, there is a commitment to build more dams.</p> <p>Mr McTavish left the meeting following his presentation.</p>
6.2	<p>Mr Ray Lambert – Southern Downs Regional Council Local Laws Coordinator – provided an overview of SDRC’s new approach to managing invasive pests through their Invasive Pest Control Scheme.</p> <p>Although there was initial resistance, the new Scheme has achieved very positive results. The Scheme evolved as a result of landowners approaching Council to bring pressure to bear on neighbours who were not dealing with pests.</p> <p>The Scheme requires property owners to have a Plan in place and has achieved a 92% return rate as property owners realise that the cost to control and eradicate pests is not as great as they had supposed.</p> <p>Other positive outcomes have been the allocation of \$1.25m for cluster (exclusion) fencing which is creating off farm employment and the fact that National Parks are now engaged with Council in a way they have not been in the past.</p>
6.3	<p>Mr Scott Smith – Chief Executive Officer, Council of Mayors, South East Queensland – advised that this organisation works as a collaborative group with equal voting rights. Established in 2005, it is the largest advocacy body for local government in Queensland and has a membership of 10 south east Qld Councils.</p> <p>Three (3) major initiatives and game changing plans for south east Queensland include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>People Mass Movement Study</i> Population growth for the area is anticipated at 47% for the next 25 years. Considers options for faster rail network to service Toowoomba.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SEQ City Deal</i> This was set up to ensure tax dollars will be reinvested in the local area and Government agreement to commence negotiations has been received with an estimated timeframe of 12 – 18 months. The Plan will evolve over 20 years and will engage all 3 tiers of Government. • <i>SEQ 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games</i> Planning has commenced for an event that will have huge benefit the region, adding much needed infrastructure and bringing tourism dollars. The project needs to be cost neutral and was initially led by the Mayors of South East Queensland but now has the support of Government following a visit by the IOC President. <p>Other projects being undertaken are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Rivers • SEQ Food Trails (online tool) • SMART Region
6.4	<p>Mrs Kelly Foran – CEO of <i>Friendly Faces Helping Hands Foundation</i> – <i>Friendly Faces Helping Hands Foundation</i> is a website designed to network communities and their people to hospitals and health facilities and provides information on accommodation, parking, cheap eats, childcare and other facilities that are located around each metropolitan hospital as well as links to support networks, social workers and counsellors.</p> <p>The Foundation aims to make stays in city hospitals as easy as possible for country people, so far assisting over 80,000 people deal with their health issues. The current drought situation is creating delay and avoidance issues for country people who are in need of health care, an issue which <i>Friendly Faces Helping Hands</i> is working hard to address.</p> <p>The Foundation receives no Government assistance but relies on funding from country people who are making donations of horses, dogs, cars etc which the Foundation sells. Volunteers from all over Australia are there to assist those for whom the journey to access medical care may be just too difficult.</p>
	<p>Meeting Adjourned for Lunch – 12.45 pm Meeting Reconvened – 1.20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDRG CEO David Keenan left the meeting • Walgett GM Greg Ingham left the meeting (teleconference)
7.	<p>Items Listed</p>
7.1	<p>Bruxner Way Traffic Counts – Reports from Tenterfield Shire Council and Inverell Shire Council – referred to Bruxner Way Joint Committee.</p> <p>Tenterfield Shire Council Mayor Peter Petty has written to The Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Regional Transport & Roads regarding reinstatement of the Bruxner Way as part of the State Regional Road Network. No response has yet been received.</p> <p>The Hon Adam Marshall MP is also advocating for this reinstatement.</p>

8.	General Business
8.1	<p>Presentation by Mrs Kelly Foran – Friendly Faces Helping Hands Foundation Cr Joan White requested that Councils encourage Regional Disability Advocacy Services Toowoomba to work with the Foundation as it covers cross border areas and the drought is exacerbating the health and wellbeing situations of many country people.</p>
	<p>Moved: That BROC donate \$1,000 to Friendly Faces Helping Hands Foundation and review every twelve (12) months: Gwydir Seconded: Inverell CARRIED</p>
8.2	<p>Evening Meal for BROC Members Prior to Meeting: Cr John Coulton sought clarification with respect to payment for the meal. This is an important event for attendees and particularly those who travel long distances to attend.</p> <p>Cr Neil Meiklejohn stressed that attendees need to operate within the governance framework across the 2 separate States.</p> <p>ACTION: Terry Dodds to investigate and bring information back to the August 2019 meeting.</p>
8.3	<p>Outstanding Cross Border Issues: Cr Joan White raised the issue of police response as a cross border issue as it appears no action has been taken and issues have not been solved. Goondiwindi Regional Council will be taking up at a Ministerial level.</p> <p>Mayor Peter Petty advised that there are still radio communication problems with Rural Fire Service. However, local police now have radios to communicate across the border.</p> <p>Lester Rodgers suggested that BROC continue to support the initiatives outlined by the Cross Border Commissioner and continue to get regular updates and status reports, and that BROC support liaison with the relevant State Members by Councils.</p>
8.4	<p>BROC Transport Plan: Currently there is \$10,000 quarantined to undertake a CSIRO study on the Bruxner Way.</p> <p>Mayor John Coulton advised that funds remain quarantined to clarify and update the existing study and to look at opportunities and work identified - Moree to put up a proposal.</p> <p>ACTION: Angus Witherby to provide an update at the August 2019 meeting.</p>
8.5	<p>Cross Border Waste: Terry Dodds advised that the EPA has changed the rules relating to waste being moved cross border. Details regarding cost and chain of custody (with consignment notes) need to be provided to EPA along with proof of disposal.</p> <p>ACTION: RDA Darling Downs & South West to provide aggregating and waste value information to the August 2019 meeting.</p>

9.	Next Meeting Walgett Shire Council @ 10.00 am Friday, 9 August 2019
10.	Meeting Closed – 2.00 pm.

ACTION ITEM LOG			
Officer	Item	Listed	Outcome
Exec	Commission further research on rural roads	04/05/18	
RDANI	Provide figures for Inverell – Manufacturing as a growth industry (meat processing)	15/02/19	
Exec	Reinvite Mr Newton (Bindaree Beef) to a future meeting	15/02/19	
RDANI	Skilled Migrant Workers – figures for each Shire and copy of correspondence	15/02/19	
Exec	Letter and donation to Friendly Faces Helping Hands Foundation	10/5/19	
Tenterfield	Investigate and bring information to August 2019 meeting regarding governance applicable to the pre BROCC meeting meal.	10/5/19	
RDA DDSW	Provide aggregating and waste value information to the August 2019 meeting.	10/5/19	