



MINUTES

13 March 2020 – Balonne Shire Council (St George)

Venue:	Balonne Shire Council Disaster Centre Grey Street St George	Date:	Friday, 13 March 2020
Chair:	Cr Peter Petty - Tenterfield	Time:	9.00 am
Attendees:	Cr Kate Dight (on Skype)	Inverell Shire Council	
	Cr Peter Petty, Mr Terry Dodds, Ms Noelene Hyde	Tenterfield Shire Council	
	Cr Richard Marsh, Mr Digby Whyte	Balonne Shire Council	
	Cr Frances Young, Cr Catherine Egan, Ms Robyn Phillips	Gwydir Shire Council	
	Cr Joan White	Goondiwindi Regional Council	
	Ms Ann Leahy MP	Member for Warrego	
	Mr Paul Sanders	Dept of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy	
	Mr Jim Grassick, Mr Damon Meadows	Dept Local Government, Racing & Multicultural Affairs	
	Ms Kym Murphy	Dept Transport & Main Roads	
	Mr Russell Stewart	Regional Development Australia Northern Inland	
File Ref:	NAM2020177		

1.	<p>Meeting Open: In opening the Meeting, Chair Cr Peter Petty thanked Balonne Shire Council for hosting BROC members.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged Cr Joan White of Goondiwindi Regional Council who is retiring as a Councillor in March 2020. Cr Petty recognised her assistance and commitment to BROC as well as her long service to her community and local government in Queensland.</p> <p>Cr White thanked the Chair for his comments, confirming she had been a member of BROC for 16 years, serving 3 of those as Chair. In closing, Cr White stressed that the Councils of NSW and Queensland need to work together, this being the only way forward.</p> <p>Deputy Chair, Cr Kate Dight also extended best wishes to Cr White on her retirement.</p> <p>Balonne Shire Council Mayor, Cr Richard Marsh extended a welcome to all and</p>
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	briefly covered aspects of the tour provided to BROC visitors on Thursday afternoon, 12 March 2020. He also stress the need for NSW and Queensland Councils to work together and outlined shared activities between Balonne Shire Council and Moree Plains Shire Council.	
2.	Apologies	
	Cr John Coulton, GM Max Eastcott	Gwydir Shire Council
	Cr Stewart Berryman	Inverell Shire Council
	Cr Brian Murray	Tenterfield Shire Council
	Cr Stephen Ritchie, Mr Angus Witherby	Moree Plains Shire Council
	Cr Manuel Martinez, Cr Ian Woodcock, Mr Michael Urquhart	Walgett Shire Council
	Mr Matthew Magin	Balonne Shire Council
	Cr Neil Meiklejohn	Southern Downs Regional Council
	Mr James McTavish	Cross Border Commissioner
	Ms Katie Williams	Qld Premiers Department
	Ms Trudi Bartlett	RDA Darling Downs & South West
	Moved: Gwydir that the Apologies be accepted. Seconded: Balonne CARRIED	
3.	Minutes of Meeting	
3.1	Matters Arising from the Minutes	
	<p><i>The Coffey Scheme – A Water Infrastructure Plan for the Future</i> Chair, Cr Peter Petty apologised that the delegation and meeting with relevant politicians has not yet occurred. Water is a big issue for many Councils at the moment with Tenterfield currently dealing with the proposed Mole River Dam project. The Coffey Scheme utilises water from the Clarence River and will present a challenge, however discussions will be undertaken.</p> <p>Deputy Chair Cr Kate Dight volunteered her availability for the discussions.</p> <p>Tenterfield Chief Executive, Terry Dodds provided details of the recent meeting with Water NSW regarding Mole River Dam. Both Federal and State Governments have provided \$12m each in funding for a Feasibility Study to be undertaken with the Business Case for wall only, to be prepared by June 2021. If favourable, it is anticipated construction will commence October 2021.</p> <p>\$331m is the initial estimate but the design is being reviewed. The site has been chosen for the dam to give a minimum capacity 100 gegalitres.</p> <p><i>ACTION: Carried Over</i> That BROC support and become a driver for the Coffey Scheme with the Chair to form a delegation and organise a meeting with the politicians in the relevant areas.</p>	
	Moved: Gwydir that the Minutes be accepted. Seconded: Inverell CARRIED	
4.	Correspondence	
4.1	<p>Inwards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Statements – Warwick Credit Union & National Australia Bank • Term Deposit Account Statement – National Australia Bank • Fixed Term Certificate - Warwick Credit Union 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulloo Shire – Membership Application for Border Regional Organisation of Councils (BROC) • Receipt – Moree Plains Shire Council • Letters of Support – Border Region Inland Rail Connectivity Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shire of Walgett ○ Gwydir Shire Council ○ Goondiwindi Regional Council ○ Tenterfield Shire Council • Media Release – Expert Panel Announced for Regional Roads Reclassification • Hon Barnaby Joyce MP – Exclusion Fencing <p>ACTION: Cr Dight - arrange for Inverell Shire Council to forward letter of support for Border Region Inland Rail Connectivity Project.</p>																
	<p>Moved: Goondiwindi that incoming correspondence be received and noted. Seconded: Balonne</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>																
4.2	<p>Outwards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to Amend Legislation with Respect to Exclusion Fencing – The Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture & Western NSW • Request to Amend Legislation with Respect to Exclusion Fencing – The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, NSW Minister for Local Government • Requested Appointment of a Qld Cross Border Commissioner – The Hon Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, Qld Premier and Minister for Trade 																
4.3	<p>Matters arising from Correspondence</p>																
	<p><i>Request for Membership – Bulloo Shire</i></p> <p>Moved: Balonne that BROC accept Bullo Shire as a member as this will help with collaboration across the region. Seconded: Gwydir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>																
5.	Financial Report as at 10 January 2020																
5.1	<p>Transactions since last meeting: <u>National Australia Bank – 69-022-2187</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Opening Balance as at 12 November 2019</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$7,592.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance as at 10 January 2020</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$7,592.61</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>National Australia Bank – Term Deposit 42-388-8697</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lodged 27 December 2018 for 12 months @ 2.75%</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10,052.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Re-invested 27 December 2019 for 12 months @ 1.50%</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10,328.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maturity Date – 27 December 2020</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Warwick Credit Union – 400379187</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Opening Balance 1 November 2019</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cash Deposit (Warwick Credit Union)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 6.50</td> </tr> </table>	Opening Balance as at 12 November 2019	\$7,592.43	Interest	\$ 0.18	Balance as at 10 January 2020	\$7,592.61	Lodged 27 December 2018 for 12 months @ 2.75%	\$10,052.36	Re-invested 27 December 2019 for 12 months @ 1.50%	\$10,328.80	Maturity Date – 27 December 2020		Opening Balance 1 November 2019	\$10,000.00	Cash Deposit (Warwick Credit Union)	\$ 6.50
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	Transfer Out – Moree Plains Shire Council	\$ 10,000.00
	EPay Fee	\$ 6.50
	Closing Balance 30 November 2019	\$ 0.00
	<u>Warwick Credit Union – Fixed Term Deposit 100005924</u>	
	Opening Balance as at 31 October 2019	\$11,179.85
	Interest Paid 2.0%	\$ 45.09
	Reinvested 22 Jan 2020 @ 1.450%	\$ 11,224.91
	Maturity Date – 22 April 2020	
5.2	Matters arising from Financial Report Nil.	
	Moved: Tenterfield that the Financial Report be accepted. Seconded: Gwydir	
		CARRIED
6.	Speakers	
	<p>Ms Ann Leahy MP – Member for Warrego</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to all – Thanked Mayor Cr Richard Marsh for arranging the tour to allow visitors to see the diversity of the Balonne Local Government Area. Also good to see rain and grass. Very supportive of BROC’s push for the appointment of a Cross Border Commissioner in Queensland. Extended congratulations to Kym Murphy on her appointment as Regional Director (Southern Queensland), Queensland Dept Transport & Main Roads. Kym is responsible for the strategic planning and forward program development for transport infrastructure in Southern Queensland and also leads and provides governance over the delivery of the transport infrastructure program, along with the management and operation of the state road network. Southern Queensland Region encompasses the Darling Downs, South West and Wide Bay Burnett areas, with offices in Toowoomba, Warwick, Roma, Charleville, Bundaberg and Gympie. Ms Leahy spoke of the challenge facing the Queensland Government and planning to increase funding for road maintenance for regional roads to \$800m. While most of the work will be carried out by Dept Transport & Main Roads, contractors will assist in smaller regional communities. Ms Leahy referred to her role as Shadow Minister for Local Government and advised of the huge capacity for engagement of organisations such as BROC with State Governments. In Queensland, meetings with State Government are held with Parliament and it is suggested that this should also happen in NSW. <p>Moved: Goondiwindi that BROC commence the process to increase engagement with both NSW and Queensland State Governments by holding one (1) meeting per year with the relevant State Parliamentarians, commencing 2020. Anne Leahy MP, Member for Warrego as the Queensland contact.</p> <p>Seconded: Inverell</p>	
		CARRIED

Mr Russell Stewart – Regional Development Australia

- Expressed his compliments to this BROCC meeting – very productive cross border communications.
- Survey - Impact of the Drought on Non-Farm Business – carried out by RDANI late 2019. **Copy to be provided for distribution to BROCC members.**
 - The Survey highlighted the need for low interest or interest free loans. Mr Stewart stressed that many regional, non agricultural business have large holding debts but no funding is available to pay these debts off and move forward. There is an injustice involved as funding is available to farming businesses.
 - Mr Stewart will be writing to Michael McCormack MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Development, requesting that this matter be urgently addressed as 70% of businesses in Northern Inland NSW need support. **Copy to be provided to BROCC.**
- Mole River Dam Project – RDANI is 110% behind it and will do anything they can to support. Will be of great benefit to the Tenterfield Shire Local Government area.
- Regional Development Australia (RDA) – Mr Stewart spoke of the current work of RDA advising that staff numbers are growing as more projects are pushed their way. RDA is 90% self funded but does need the support of clients.
 - Migration is one of these projects which has been removed as a State Government portfolio and the contract returned to RDA. This was a decision of the Head of Treasury, not Government.
- Mr Stewart expressed his support for Ms Trudi Bartlett, RDA Darling Downs & South West. She has a huge job and it is unfortunate that she is unable to attend this meeting.

Ms Kym Murphy – Regional Director, Southern Queensland Region, Dept Transport & Main Roads

- The Department has been redistributed (since February) with the Downs South West now also including Wide Bay and Burnett and renamed Southern Queensland Region. This has increased the area of the road network and staffing numbers (300) within Ms Murphy's scope of responsibility.
- Ms Murphy expressed her ongoing commitment to deliver. Very passionate with having engagement with the community, Local Government and State Government. Dollars are allocated on a project by project basis - ongoing commitment that projects will continue.
- Ms Murphy spoke on the Regional Transport Plans for Queensland, particularly for the South West and Darling Downs. The Plans are linked to State Government policy and priorities/strategies are developed in close discussion with Local Government.
- **Plans provided for distribution:**
 - TMR Planning Activities: Transport System Planning Program –

	<p>BROC Related Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TMR QTRIP 2019/20 – 2022/23 <p>Chair Cr Peter Petty commented on a recent meeting regarding the New England Highway - \$140m Federal funding allocated for upgrades from Newcastle to the Queensland Border.</p>
	<p>Mr Jim Grassick – Regional Manager, Regional Services South – Dept Local Government, Racing & Multicultural Affairs, Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with 17 Councils within the area and will lobby hard to get a Queensland Border Commissioner position. • Concerns that the upcoming Queensland Local Government elections may impact BROC with changes in representation. • His role involves the conduct of Councillor induction programs (on line). Following the elections Mr Grassick will commence a road trip to visit all 17 Councils which will commence mid April and finish towards the end of May.
	<p>Mr Damon Meadows – Senior Regional Advisor, Southern Region, Local Government Division - Dept Local Government, Racing & Multicultural Affairs, Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Meadows referred to current drought and flood funding, advising that he is the contact if Queensland Councils are experiencing problems. He is able to assist to ensure that projects happen for the communities.
	<p>Mr Paul Sanders, Regional Manager, Water Services South Region, Dept of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy, Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By way of introduction, Mr Sanders advised he worked with water and vegetation and has been involved in regional service delivery for the whole of his career. • Mr Sanders gave a presentation to BROC members on water flows from the recent, very welcome, rain event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Murray Darling Basin - Lower Balonne River (no major water harvesting event since 2017) ○ Border Rivers (no major water harvesting event since 2013) ○ Beardmore Dam – peak was 200,000 megs a day – last spilled in 2018 and some of this water was able to be stored. ○ 2012 saw the largest peak in the Balonne River at St George. ○ This current flow was very welcome with 1/2m gigs crossing the Border into NSW. ○ Rules apply when irrigators can take water and if it has been dry – water needs to be allocated. ○ Environmental/Stock/Domestic (ESD) flows are considered. • Mr Sanders is at St George providing flow event and post flow event reports, and auditing compliance on water meters. Will be back out again in 2 weeks and is always well received in the communities.

7.	General Business
	<p>Mr Digby Whyte – Director of Environment & Regulatory Services, Balonne Shire Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Whyte provided a brief summary of the tour of large scale irrigation facilities, the garlic and onion agricultural business and exclusion fencing undertaken by BROC visitors on Thursday, 12 March 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Balonne Shire Council’s March 2020 newsletter, <i>Beyond the Wire</i> was tabled for information.
	<p>Mr Terry Dodds – Chief Executive, Tenterfield Shire Council – Waste to Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Dodds updated BROC members on current events relating to Waste to Energy (W2E), advising that Southern Downs Regional Council and Tenterfield Shire Council will shortly visit Brisbane to investigate a mobile waste to energy plant which has been funded partly by the Qld Government and Qld University. • Once these investigations have been undertaken, he may be able to arrange for the W2E group to present to BROC regarding a “milk run” along the border. • Developing technology is such that modular W2E plants have been produced which will allow smaller Councils to stockpile waste and the plant can come to them. W2E plants can be converted to produce products other than electricity, eg steam. Tenterfield Shire Council is seeking funding to test, designing a plant around the waste stream of 40,000 people. • New technology coming out of Japan/China produces zero pollution. There are currently 3 of these under construction in WA. • NSW Government have produced a Waste Discussion Paper which mentions W2E and are seeking comment – has been regularly provided by both Mr Dodds and Mr Angus Witherby, Director Planning & Development, Moree Plains Shire Council. <p>Cr Frances Young, Gwydir Shire Council, expressed her congratulations to Mr Dodds for the work he has undertaken on this important issue, particularly for small, regional, and rural Councils who are facing huge problems and cost blowouts with waste disposal.</p>
	<p>Suggestion for Future Discussion – Fast Internet Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Digby Whyte raised this matter for future discussion. Connectivity presents an issue for remote land holders. Has been in discussions with Mr Angus Witherby.
	<p>Bruxner Way Joint Committee</p> <p>Chair Cr Peter Petty referred to the motion from the November 2019 meeting of BROC – advising that the Government (via Media Release) have finally “<i>established an expert panel to identify up to 15,000 km of council-managed roads in rural and regional areas to hand back to the State, easing the burden on local ratepayers</i>”.</p>

	Cr Petty advised that he would remain in contact with the Government to drive the return of the Bruxner Way to the State Government.
9.	Next Meeting: Gwydir Shire Council (The Living Classroom, Bingara) – 10.00 am, Friday, 15 May 2020
10.	Meeting Closed: 12.10 pm