



# MINUTES

## 13 November 2020 – Bingara (Gwydir Shire Council)

<b>Venue:</b>	The Living Classroom Narrabri Road, Bingara	<b>Date:</b>	Friday, 13 November 2020
<b>Chair:</b>	Cr Peter Petty - Tenterfield	<b>Time:</b>	11.09 am
<b>Attendees:</b>	Mayor Samatha O'Toole CEO Matthew Magin	Balonne Shire Council	
	Mayor Lawrence Springborg Cr Rob Mackenzie	Goondiwindi Regional Council	
	Mayor John Coulton Cr Catherine Egan Cr Tiffany Galvin GM Max Eastcott Mr David Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council	
	Cr Kate Dight	Inverell Shire Council	
	Cr Stephen Ritchie Mr James Maxwell	Moree Plains Shire Council	
	Cr Andrew Gale	Southern Downs Regional Council	
	Chair – Mayor Peter Petty Cr Brian Murray CE Terry Dodds Sec/Treasurer Noelene Hyde	Tenterfield Shire Council	
	Mayor John Ferguson CEO Lew Rojahn Ms Donna Hobbs	Bulloo Shire Council	
	Ms Emma Watts	Office of Cross Border Commissioner (via Zoom)	
	Ms Katie Williams	Qld Dept Premier & Cabinet (via Zoom)	
	Ms Angela Doring	Australian Rail Track Corporation (via Zoom)	
	Mr Russell Stewart	RDA Northern Inland	
	Ms Kym Murphy	Dept Transport & Main Roads Qld (via Zoom)	
<b>File Ref:</b>	G/21		

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Meeting Open:</b> This meeting followed on immediately from the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Prior to the Annual General Meeting, Officers from the NSW Dept of Planning, Industry &amp; Environment presented to the meeting on the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy, inviting members to complete the Regional Water Strategies</p>
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	Public Exhibition Submission Questionnaire (submissions closing 30 November 2020).	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Cr Frances Young	Gwydir Shire Council
	GM Lester Rodgers Director Angus Witherby	Moree Plains Shire Council
	Ms Janelle Saffin MP	Member for Lismore
	Ann Leahy MP	Member for Warrego
	Trudi Bartlett	RDA Darling Downs & South West
	<b>Moved:</b> Tenterfield that the apologies be accepted. <b>Seconded:</b> Balonne <b>CARRIED</b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of Meeting – Zoom Meeting – 14 August 2020</b>	
3.1	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>	
	<p>1. <b>Balonne Shire Council – Hebel-Goodooga Road Link – Upgrade to Bitumen</b> Chief Executive Officer Matthew Magin advised that funding for this upgrade has been received.</p> <p>2. <b>Bruxner Way Joint Committee</b> Chair Peter Petty referred to a presentation given to the recent meeting of the Country Mayors’ Association by Peter Duncan AM, Member of the Independent Panel for the Road Classification Review &amp; Transfer, and Commissioner of the Independent Planning Commission.</p> <p>The deadline for nominations on all roads proposed for priority and non-priority reclassification and/or transfer was September 2020 with a further request for Councils to now confirm roads for reallocation as State Highways.</p> <p>The interim report to the Minister for Regional Transport &amp; Roads is anticipated early 2021.</p>	
	<b>Moved:</b> Southern Downs that the Minutes be accepted. <b>Seconded:</b> Balonne <b>CARRIED</b>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
4.1	<b>Inwards:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bank Statements Warwick Credit Union &amp; National Australia Bank</li> <li>• Fixed Term Certificate – Warwick Credit Union</li> <li>• Inverell Shire Council – Regional Road Transfer &amp; Road Classification Review</li> <li>• Bulloo Shire – Expression of thanks for letters of support for Warri Gate Road.</li> <li>• Mr Christopher Gulaptis MP – Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Roads &amp; Infrastructure – Warri Gate Road.</li> <li>• Better Building Finance – Information for BROCC Councils – Sustainability Finance, and Better Building Finance Collaboration.</li> <li>• Amanda Yeates – Deputy Director-General (Infrastructure Management &amp; Delivery – Dept Transport &amp; Main Roads – Warri Gate Road.</li> </ul>	

4.2	<p><b>Outwards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per Matters Arising from the Minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waste to Energy – Copy of Funding Application for seed funding.</li> <li>○ Balonne Shire Council – Hebel-Goodooga Road Link – Copy of letter of support.</li> <li>○ Bulloo Shire Council – Warri Gate Road – Copy of letters of support.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>																																		
	<p><b>Moved:</b> Goondiwindi that correspondence be received and noted.  <b>Seconded:</b> Balonne</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>																																		
4.3	<p><b>Matters arising from Correspondence</b>  Nil</p>																																		
<b>5. Financial Report as at 10 November 2020</b>																																			
5.1	<p><b>Transactions since last meeting:</b>  <u><b>National Australia Bank – 69-022-2187</b></u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Opening Balance as at 11 July 2020</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$11,593.12</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cheque 000044 (Set up of website)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 112.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance as at 9 October 2020</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$11,480.88</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><u><b>National Australia Bank – Term Deposit 42-388-8697</b></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;"><b>\$10,328.80</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maturity Date – 27 December 2020</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><u><b>Warwick Credit Union – 400379187</b></u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Opening Balance 1 July 2020</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$ -8.27</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper Statement Fee/Interest Debit – 31 July 2020</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-2.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Opening Balance 1 August 2020</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>-10.41</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper Statement Fee/Interest Debit – 1 August 2020</td> <td style="text-align: right;">- 2.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adjustment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">12.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing Balance 30 September 2020</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$ - 0.07</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><u><b>Warwick Credit Union – Fixed Term Deposit 100005924</b></u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Opening Balance as at 31 August 2020</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$ 11,301.79</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest Paid 0.95%</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 26.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reinvested 22 October 2020 @ 0.750%</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$ 11,328.78</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maturity Date – 22 January 2021</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Opening Balance as at 11 July 2020	<b>\$11,593.12</b>	Interest	\$ 0.29	Cheque 000044 (Set up of website)	\$ 112.53	Balance as at 9 October 2020	<b>\$11,480.88</b>	Lodged 27 December 2018 for 12 months @ 2.75%	\$10,052.36	Re-invested 27 December 2019 for 12 months @ 1.50%	<b>\$10,328.80</b>	Maturity Date – 27 December 2020		Opening Balance 1 July 2020	<b>\$ -8.27</b>	Paper Statement Fee/Interest Debit – 31 July 2020	-2.14	Opening Balance 1 August 2020	<b>-10.41</b>	Paper Statement Fee/Interest Debit – 1 August 2020	- 2.07	Adjustment	12.41	Closing Balance 30 September 2020	<b>\$ - 0.07</b>	Opening Balance as at 31 August 2020	<b>\$ 11,301.79</b>	Interest Paid 0.95%	\$ 26.99	Reinvested 22 October 2020 @ 0.750%	<b>\$ 11,328.78</b>	Maturity Date – 22 January 2021	
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	<p><b>Moved:</b> Moree that the Financial Report be accepted.  <b>Seconded:</b> Goondiwindi</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>																																		
5.2	<p><b>Matters arising from Financial Report</b>  Nil</p>																																		
<b>6. Items Listed</b>																																			

6.1	<p><b>Balonne Shire Council – Request for General Conversation Regarding Water</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Officer Matthew Magin highlighted the range of issues regarding cross border water and the need to involve the relevant Government Departments for water from both sides of the border to discuss issues with the border Councils.</p> <p>He suggested a Working Group could be formed to do this as Queensland/NSW authorities need to have some cohesion and BROCC needs to have a position regarding recycled water, dams, etc.</p> <p>Tenterfield Chief Executive Terry Dodds raised the issue of use of recycled water for domestic use and the huge task of education. This should be a Government initiative as it too large for any individual Council to undertake.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Inverell that the Heads of Water in Government and Industry for both Queensland and NSW be invited to the BROCC meeting at Inverell Shire Council on Friday, 12 February 2021 to discuss the cross border water issues.</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Goondiwindi</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenterfield to organise the attendance of WaterNSW at the Inverell meeting.</li> <li>• Ms Katie Williams &amp; Goondiwindi Mayor to organise the attendance of the appropriate Queensland bodies.</li> <li>• Extend an invitation to Paroo Shire (about to switch on their water recycling plant)</li> <li>• Each Council to showcase what they are doing regarding water recycling.</li> </ul>
	<p><i>The Meeting adjourned for morning tea, the time being 11.42 am.</i></p> <p><i>The Meeting reconvened at 12 noon.</i></p>
7.	<p><b>General Business</b></p>
	<p><b>7.1 Waste to Energy</b></p> <p>Tenterfield Chief Executive Terry Dodds referred to the address by Mr Tim Breen of Nilwaste Energy at the August 2020 meeting and their application on BROCC’s behalf seeking seed funding to pursue Waste to Energy (W2E).</p> <p>Mr Dodds advised that W2E reduces the energy footprint and is not only about power, there are a lot of other uses. He noted that the Greens were defeated in NSW Parliament in their attempt to ban W2E.</p> <p>There needs to be a common demoninator for Councils along the border as it is beyond an individual Council’s capacity to supply the waste volumes required. Tenterfield and Moree Shires have taken W2E up with the EPA in order to change their policy.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Inverell that Tenterfield be the lead Council to source grant funding for waste conversion.</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Gwydir</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>

## 7.2 RDANI – Support for Migration

Chair of RDANI, Russell Stewart advised that NSW Finance have now returned the responsibility for migration for the region back to RDANI. Migrant numbers have been slashed due to COVID (from 300 to 40) but there remain quality positions which need to be filled.

Mr Stewart asked BROCC to assist in providing a letter of support to RDANI at the February 2021 meeting highlighting the skills in demand in each of the Council areas. RDANI will be seeking to have the Federal Government List of Skills in Demand updated to more reflect the needs of the region.

*Below you will find the Federal Government's list of Skills in Demand. This is the list RDANI have to adhere to when looking to bring migrants into our region. Most agree that outside of medical, many of the current skills required in the bush are not included. The input of our BROCC members as discussed would be very much appreciated in order for us to attempt to have this list updated to more reflect the needs of our region.*

<b>ANZSCO Code</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
133211	Engineering Manager
233211	Civil Engineer
233212	Geotechnical Engineer
233214	Structural Engineer
233215	Transport Engineer
233511	Industrial Engineer
233512	Mechanical Engineer
233513	Production or Plant Engineer
233911	Aeronautical Engineer
233912	Agricultural Engineer
233913	Biomedical Engineer
233916	Naval Architect
233999	Engineering Professionals nec
254411	Nurse Practitioner
254412	Registered Nurse (Aged Care)
254413	Registered Nurse (Child and Family Health)
254414	Registered Nurse (Community Health)
254415	Registered Nurse (Critical Care and Emergency)
254416	Registered Nurse (Developmental Disability)
254417	Registered Nurse (Disability and Rehabilitation)
254418	Registered Nurse (Medical)
254421	Registered Nurse (Medical Practice)

254422	Registered Nurse (Mental Health)
254423	Registered Nurse (Perioperative)
254424	Registered Nurse (Surgical)
254425	Registered Nurse (Paediatric)
254499	Registered Nurses nec
261311	Analyst Programmer
261312	Developer Programmer
261313	Software Engineer
263111	Computer Network and Systems Engineer
312211	Civil Engineering Draftsperson
312212	Civil Engineering Technician
312999	Building and Engineering Technicians nec

**ACTION:** Councils to provide a list of current skills required to Noelene [n.hyde@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:n.hyde@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au) by Monday, 1 February 2021 so that a letter of support for RDANI can be drafted prior to the February meeting.

**ACTION:** Mr Stewart to collaborate with RDA Darling & South West to include the Queensland Councils.

**ACTION:** Request to visit the RDANI Shearing School at Glen Innes – options to be investigated.

### **7.3 Gwydir Shire Council – Future Drought Fund Drought Resilience Research & Adoption Program – Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs**

Mayor John Coulton referred to this round of grant funding, advising that a consortium can apply but must have an ABN. The funding is \$2m for three (3) years (being \$2m each year).

Chair of RDANI, Mr Russell Stewart indicated that RDANI will support any application.

**Moved:** Inverell

- (1) That BROC investigate participation in the Future Drought Fund Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Program – Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs.
- (2) The application to be for the purposes of waste conversion, water issues or other issues relative to individual Councils; and
- (3) That BROC engage Mr Nick Tobin to consult with individual Councils to formulate the application and obtain a quote for the work.

**Seconded:** Tenterfield

**CARRIED**

### **7.4 Inverell Shire Council – China Trade Issues**

Cr Kate Dight referred to the concerns relating to the current trade issues with China and the impact on Australian agriculture.

	<p><b>Moved:</b> Inverell</p> <p>(1) That BROC approach the Assistant Federal Minister for Trade to speak to the Group at one of the meetings regarding trade issues with China with a view to looking into the future going forward; or</p> <p>(2) A delegation of BROC members meet with the Assistant Federal Minister for Trade.</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Balonne</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>7.5 Goondiwindi Regional Council – Closure of Queensland/NSW Border</b></p> <p>Mayor Lawrence Springborg referred to the closure of the border due to COVID regulations and the effect of agriculture, stressing that there is a need for an industry-wide bubble in case of future border closures. The Queensland Chief Health Officer is very amenable to this happening if good COVID plans are in place.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Mayor Springborg to report back to the next BROC meeting.</p>
	<p><b>Meeting Closed</b></p> <p>The Meeting closed at 1.01 pm with Chair Peter Petty extending his best wishes to all for the Christmas Season.</p>