



MINUTES

12 February 2021 – Inverell (Inverell Shire Council)

Venue:	Inverell Shire Council Council Committee Room 144 Otho Street, Inverell	Date:	Friday, 12 February 2021
Chair:	Mayor Peter Petty - Tenterfield	Time:	10.02 am
Attendees:	CEO Matthew Magin	Balonne Shire Council	
	Mayor Lawrence Springborg Cr Rob Mackenzie	Goondiwindi Regional Council	
	Cr Frances Young	Gwydir Shire Council	
	Cr Kate Dight Cr Stewart Berryman Ms Sharon Stafford	Inverell Shire Council	
	Mr Roland Heatley	Moree Plains Shire Council	
	Cr Andrew Gale	Southern Downs Regional Council	
	Chair – Mayor Peter Petty Cr Brian Murray ACE Kylie Smith Sec/Treasurer Noelene Hyde Ms Christie Fitzpatrick Deputy Mayor Greg Sauer	Tenterfield Shire Council	
	Ms Emma Watts	Office of Cross Border Commissioner (via Zoom)	
	Ms Katie Williams	Qld Dept Premier & Cabinet (via Zoom)	
	Ms Angela Doering	Dept Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications	
	Mr Russell Stewart	RDA Northern Inland	
	Ms Kym Murphy	Dept Transport & Main Roads Qld (via Zoom)	
	Ms Trudi Bartlett	RDA Darling Downs & South West (via Zoom)	
	Ms Bernadette Plummer	Dept Local Govt Racing & Multicultural Affairs (via Zoom)	
	Ms Stephanie Hogan	Department of Water (via Zoom)	
	CEO Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Association	
	Mayor Jamie Chaffey Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Shire Council	
File Ref:	G/21		

1. Meeting Open:

	<p>Inverell Mayor Paul Harmon opened the meeting welcoming all in attendance to Inverell. He asked attendees to have a look around Inverell, in particular the wonderful shopping precinct. He mentioned that Cross Border initiatives benefit all across the region.</p> <p>Chair Peter Petty thanked Mayor Harmon and introduced Tenterfield Deputy Mayor Greg Sauer and Ms Christie Fitzpatrick as observers to the day's proceedings.</p> <p>Mayor Harmon did not stay for the remainder of the meeting.</p>	
2.	Apologies	
	Ms Ann Leahy MP	Member for Warrego
	Ms Janelle Saffin MP	Member for Lismore
	Mr James McTavish	Cross Border Commissioner
	Mr Damon Meadows	Southern Region – Local Govt Division (Qld)
	Mr Angus Witherby Cr Stephen Ritchie	Moree Plains Shire Council
	Mayor Samantha O'toole	Balonne Shire Council
	Mayor John Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council
	Ms Sally Dickinson	Murray Darling Basin Authority
	Mr Andrew Langford	Dept Agriculture & Fisheries
	Ms Jo Tait	Australian Rail Track Corporation
	Heidi Roberts	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing & Water
	Mayor John Ferguson Mr Lew Rojahn Ms Donna Hobbs	Bulloo Shire Council
	<p>Moved: Gwydir that the apologies be accepted. Seconded: Goondiwindi CARRIED</p>	
3.	Minutes of Meeting – 13 November 2020	
3.1	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1. Request for General Conversation Regarding Water (referred to Items Listed for Business)</p> <p>2. Future Drought Fund Drought Resilience Research & Adoption Program – Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs (closing date of 23 December 2020 – no action taken) Chief Executive Officer Emma Bradbury – Murray Darling Association advised LG considered putting up a bid. MDA engaged – matched funding, established on a consortia in a very short time frame. Universities have done this. Partnership in a larger bid was the better way to go. MDA have carried this forward. Nick Tobin has been involved. Successful bids then be able to come back to Council.</p> <p>3. Waste to Energy – Terry Dodds (Tenterfield Chief Executive) has resigned his position at Tenterfield. Determine who will now lead this project. Chair Peter Petty proposed Angus Witherby from Moree Plains is the best person to lead this project. All agreed. BROCC will contact Angus.</p>	

	<p>4. RDANI – Support for Migration (referred to Items Listed for Business)</p> <p>5. China Trade Issue – will organise through Federal Member.</p> <p>Action: Cr Kate Dight to arrange and report back to next meeting. Any member wish to become involved.</p> <p>6. Goondiwindi Regional Council – Closure of Queensland/NSW Border Queensland Border Bubble – Goondiwindi Mayor Lawrence Springborg advised Agforce are fairly comfortable and are happy with the progress for an agriculture bubble. Support and encouragement from Dept Health. Need to ensure that the learnings are used in the future rather than reinventing.</p> <p>Chair Peter Petty noted E-Gates have worked very well as opposed to concrete barriers.</p> <p>Mayor Springborg advised he went straight to Chief of Health. Seeking recompense due to the cost of installation, pulling down and reinstating. Ongoing cost has been considerable due to vandalism, damage, etc.</p> <p>Katie Williams from Dept Premier & Cabinet advised she is happy to act as liaison to ensure correct information.</p>
	<p>Moved: Inverell that the Minutes be accepted. Seconded: Southern Downs CARRIED</p>
4.	Correspondance
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 • Fixed Term Deposit – National Australia Bank • The Hon Michael McCormack MP – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Development – Bulloo Shire Council’s proposal to progressively seal Warri Gate Road. • The Hon Adam Marshall, Minister for Agriculture & Western NSW – Exclusion Fencing.
	<p>Moved: Balonne that the inwards correspondence be received and noted. Seconded: Goondiwindi CARRIED</p>
4.2	<p>Outwards: Nil.</p>
4.3	<p>Matters arising from Correspondence</p> <p>The Hon Michael McCormack MP – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Development – Bulloo Shire Council’s proposal to progressively seal Warri Gate Road. The Hon Michael McCormack MP states in his letter from November 2020 that the Bulloo Shire Council will receive funding of \$848,921 and over \$11.3million to the nine other Councils of the Border Regional Organisation of Councils to</p>

	<p>help them invest in improving their local road network.</p> <p>The Hon Adam Marshall, Minister for Agriculture & Western NSW – Exclusion Fencing.</p> <p>Chair Peter Petty noted that while exclusion fencing is very good in QLD it is not happening in NSW. Cr Petty to pursue with the Minister for Local Government.</p>																																		
5.	Financial Report as at 10 November 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 11 November 2020</td> <td>\$11,480.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cheque 000045 (Auditor costs)</td> <td>247.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership – Gwydir Shire Council</td> <td>\$ 500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership – Southern Downs Regional Council</td> <td>\$ 500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership – Inverell Shire Council</td> <td>\$ 500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest</td> <td>0.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership – Goondiwindi Regional Council</td> <td>\$ 500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership – Tenterfield Shire Council</td> <td>\$ 500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership – Walgett Shire Council</td> <td>\$ 500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance as at 8 January 2021</td> <td>\$14,233.67</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>National Australia Bank – Term Deposit 42-388-8697</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lodged 27 December 2020 for 12 months @ 0.50%</td> <td>\$10,484.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maturity Date – 27 December 2021</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Warwick Credit Union – 400379187</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Closing Balance 31 January 2021</td> <td>\$ - 0.07</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Warwick Credit Union – Fixed Term Deposit 100005924</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Opening Balance as at 31 December 2020</td> <td>\$ 11,328.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest Paid 0.75%</td> <td>\$ 21.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reinvested 22 January 2021 @ 0.7%</td> <td>\$ 11,350.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maturity Date – 22 April 2021</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Opening Balance as at 11 November 2020	\$11,480.88	Cheque 000045 (Auditor costs)	247.50	Membership – Gwydir Shire Council	\$ 500.00	Membership – Southern Downs Regional Council	\$ 500.00	Membership – Inverell Shire Council	\$ 500.00	Interest	0.29	Membership – Goondiwindi Regional Council	\$ 500.00	Membership – Tenterfield Shire Council	\$ 500.00	Membership – Walgett Shire Council	\$ 500.00	Balance as at 8 January 2021	\$14,233.67	Lodged 27 December 2020 for 12 months @ 0.50%	\$10,484.16	Maturity Date – 27 December 2021		Closing Balance 31 January 2021	\$ - 0.07	Opening Balance as at 31 December 2020	\$ 11,328.78	Interest Paid 0.75%	\$ 21.37	Reinvested 22 January 2021 @ 0.7%	\$ 11,350.15	Maturity Date – 22 April 2021	
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	<p>Moved: Inverell that the Financial Report be accepted. Seconded: Balonne</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>																																		
5.2	Matters arising from Financial Report																																		
6.	<p>Guest Speakers</p> <p>10.30 am – Mr Andrew Macdonald – Bindaree Beef</p> <p>Current state of the beef industry and the future outlook for the meat processing industry.</p> <p>Bindaree Beef have been in business for 40 years, and this year have celebrated 25 years in Inverell. They were the founding supplier to Aldi and currently supply 51% of beef on the eastern side of Australia. Bindaree Beef also supplies to China (big market). One of their largest Chinese customers is the high end</p>																																		

	<p>Hot Pot Restaurant chain – Haidilao.</p> <p>Australian beef producers are reliant on export markets. Australia produces only 4% of global beef but accounts for around 17% of world trade, and has consistently been one of the top three global exporters for several decades. Food price inflation is about to reach record prices. Protein shortage. Due to African Swine Fever, China is 20 million tonnes of protein short.</p> <p>Corn prices – China imported 6 million tonne of corn. Have banned use of swill so grain is needed.</p> <p>Australia is a high cost producer of beef in the grass fed beef industry. Australia needs to increase grain fed production.</p> <p>Australian suppliers need to maintain China access licence for beef. 8 Plants have already lost their access licence and if Australia losses Beef Access Cattle prices will fall by 50%.</p> <p>Currency devaluation has a massive effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia’s cattle and Beef industry operates in a high cost environment. • Put simply we cannot compete with South American Beef Exports and Prices. Particularly when currencies are not in our favour. • We have to operate in a premium space. This effectively means Grainfed, or Wagyu or Natural. • I expect there will be 2 Million cattle on feed within the next 15 years. <p>Emma Bradbury & Cr John Campbell – Region 11 Murray Darling Association Inc.</p> <p><i>Gunnedah Shire Council Mayor Jamie Chaffey & Cr John Campbell entered the meeting.</i></p> <p>Local knowledge contributes to National solutions!</p> <p>Work on solutions that Governments can take forward with confidence.</p> <p>The MDA has been meeting with CSIRO to develop terms of reference for the MDA Local Government Science and Education Advisory Subcommittee.</p> <p>Discussions are also progressing with CSIRO, MDBA and Basin Governments on developing the Basin Climate Ready Communities Program.</p> <p>Ms Bradbury reminded the group the Murray Darling Associations’ 77th National Conference and AGM will be held in Wentworth, NSW 16-19 May 2021.</p> <p>Action List - Coffey Scheme – action on this and Emma will report back. Basin Communities Leadership Program – 15 Workshops in Cunnamulla, Dirranbandi, St George and Collarenebri from 29 March to 9 April.</p>
	<p><i>The Meeting adjourned for morning tea, the time being 11.35 am.</i></p> <p><i>The Meeting reconvened at 11.50am.</i></p>
7.	Items Listed

7.1	<p>Balonne Shire Council – Request for general conversation regarding water</p> <p>Invitations have been extended to WaterNSW & Department of Water Queensland. Representatives will be attending via Zoom.</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer Matthew Magin suggested the need to get the State Government speaking to each other. May need a separate forum.</p> <p>Stephanie Hogan – Dept Water QLD</p> <p>Bulk water infrastructure projects. SDRC – looking at feasibility of pipeline from Toowoomba to SDRC to service Stanthorpe. Looking at economic growth scenarios. \$3m has been allocated – very early stages – letting them know the opportunity is there.</p> <p>Emma would like to have collaborative discussion with Steph.</p> <p>Goondiwindi Mayor Lawrence Springborg advised ?????? Water Alliance is inviting additional NSW councils to attend if they wish. Critically important that councils work together.</p>
7.2	<p>RDANI – Support for Migration – Mr Russell Stewart (RDANI Chair)</p> <p>Request for member Councils to provide information on the Federal Government’s list of Skills in Demand so that it will more reflect the needs of our region (list in Minutes).</p> <p><i>Russell seeking support from other Councils for information. Federal Govt looks to local govt for information. Please provide information. Medical and education are the prime issues in regional areas.</i></p> <p><i>Nursing staff is a huge problem. Need to offer school based traineeships.</i></p> <p><i>Russell will provide dates for invitations to the shearing schools.</i></p> <p><i>Congratulations to Russell on reappointment.</i></p> <p>Building Better Regions Fund</p> <p><i>Will be competitive and over subscribed. If you need support, RDANI will assist but needs the projects.</i></p> <p><i>Need quality employers employing quality youth in regional and ensuring they stay there.</i></p> <p><i>General invitation for any BROCC members to attend Chairs meetings.</i></p> <p>Trudi – update on what’s happening in Qld</p> <p><i>Need more consistent collaboration in State and regional areas.</i></p> <p><i>Open water mapping project (no public maps available) still trying to get funds to resource this.</i></p> <p><i>Regional dr’s committee – doing some work with State funding.</i></p> <p><i>Needs \$150,000 – desk top analysis, and 2 other steps. USQ have been asked to include border areas. Will try again to obtain from cross border commissioner’s funding.</i></p>

	<p><i>PP – Letter of support and will make contact with James McTavish.</i></p> <p><i>Keen to promote state water forum. Trudi will discuss with Russell re RDA hosting.</i></p> <p>Council's to showcase what they are doing regarding water recycling. Information attached from Tenterfield Shire Council. <i>Moree – 100% sewer water is recycled to golf club, citrus farm (take 1giglitre). Villages do not have enough volume to consider recycling.</i> <i>Moree population is declining and with the new projects may add population. Problems with NRAR getting additional water.</i></p>
8.	General Business
8.1	<p>Signatories for BROCC Accounts</p> <p>As a result of resignations of Tenterfield Shire Council Chief Executive Terry Dodds and Executive Assistant & Media Noelene Hyde (BROC Secretary/Treasurer), a determination and resolution was made to update the resolution from Annual General Meeting of 9 November 2018 below:</p> <p>Moved: <i>That the signatories for all bank accounts be Cr Peter Petty, Terry Dodds and Noelene Hyde.</i></p> <p>Minutes showing the new signatories will need to be presented to Warwick Credit Union and NAB.</p> <p>Moved: Goondiwindi that Terry Dodds and Noelene Hyde be removed as signatories from all bank accounts. Seconded: Balonne</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Chair Peter Petty proposed Cr Dight from Inverell become a signatory as Inverell will be taking over as Chair and Treasurer/Secretary in November. Also that Christie Fitzpatrick become a signatory as she will be taking over BROC duties upon Noelene Hyde's retirement.</p> <p>Moved: Goondiwindi that the signatories for all bank accounts be Cr Peter Petty, Cr Kate Dight and Christie Fitzpatrick. Seconded: Balonne</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
8.2	<p>Paroo Shire Council – Request for BROCC Membership</p> <p>Balonne Chief Executive Officer Matthew Magin received confirmation Paroo Shire Council wishes to join BROCC.</p> <p>Moved: <i>Balonne that Paroo Shire Council be accepted as members of BROCC and an invoice for membership be raised.</i> Seconded: Goondiwindi</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
	<p>Meeting Closed</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 1.15 pm.</p>