
**MINUTES OF THE RURAL ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT TILPA ON WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST 2012 COMMENCING AT
10.45 AM.**

PRESENT

Councillor Lilliane Brady OAM (Mayor Cobar Shire Council), Councillor Bob Sinclair (Cobar Shire Council), Stephen Taylor (Director of Engineering Services, Cobar Shire Council), Peter Morgan (Works Manager, Cobar Shire Council), Gary Woodman (General Manager, Cobar Shire Council) Andrew Farnsworth, Leon Zanker, George Milliar, Alison Shearer, Robert Neate, Ken Evans, Justin McClure, Sue Prendergast (Ex Assist/Engineering Services).

APOLOGIES

RRC.08 2012 RECOMMENDATION: That the apologies be received and accepted from Councillor Greg Martin (Cobar Shire Council), Councillor Jarrod Marsden (Cobar Shire Council) Julie McClure, Pauline, Barry and Paul Oliver, Leonie Sinclair, Michael McInerney, Jill McInerney.

Robert Neate/Gary Woodman

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RRC.08.2012 RECOMMENDATION: That the minutes of the Rural Roads Advisory Committee held on 2 May 2012, at Berangabah Station, were passed as a true and correct record of the proceeding, of that meeting.

Bob Sinclair/Andrew Farnsworth

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RRC.08.2012 Stephen Taylor tabled a report updating traffic counts on Shire and Regional Roads. The report included updates on counts being undertaken on MR 461, MR 7518, MR 7521 and Harcourt Street. In addition, Central Darling Shire Council has undertaken a count on MR 7522 at the Boundary of the two Shires. The traffic counters are currently out on MR 419 and MR 7518.

Councillor Sinclair enquired as to why the traffic counters are being used and why are they not following the road works around the Shire. It would make more sense to have them on repaired roads that traffic will use as opposed to damaged roads no one wants to travel on. This would give Council a higher reading of car numbers. He also enquired as to why Cobar Shire had not put counters on the Wool Track.

Stephen Taylor explained that Central Darling Shire had put traffic counters on the Wool Track (7522) and they were happy to share their information with Cobar Shire. He also explained that a Traffic Counter counts the number of axles on the vehicle as

it passes over and measures the difference between heavy and light vehicles and also measures speed.

Justin McClure spoke about the 52 Mile road as opposed to the 78 Mile Road and how it is approx 30km longer; it is actually shorter at the present time due to the rough condition of the 52 Mile Road. He also questioned whether the Council road crew triggered most of the traffic counts on The Barnato road.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Ken Evans explained that you are not permitted to take gravel from Mt Grenfell as it is a National Park so he was happy to provide the gravel from his property. Free of charge.

Councillor Sinclair inquired again into the funding difference between Councils. He also asked that a copy of the Report from June Council Meeting be sent to all Rural Roads Committee members.

George Millear inquired as to who is responsible for cleaning out Regional Road Grids.

RECOMMENDATION:

That an enquiry be undertaken to find relevant information including who is responsible for the cleaning of grids on Regional Roads.

Justin McClure/Leon Zanker

CARRIED

George Millear questioned the article in the Cobar Weekly as to the borrowing of \$1 mil, and questioned as to how Council could/would repay. Mayor Brady advised him that the Council was always going to borrow more money; it was poorly reported and explained in the paper. Councillor Sinclair indicated that the budget needs to seriously review its losses in the next budget. Mayor Brady also explained the costs involved in running of the Pool, cleaning the main street, running costs of the Youth Centre and the Tourism costs.

Andrew Farnsworth thanked Council for the works that have been done on the 52 Mile Road and requested that regular grading be done to maintain it in the current condition. He also questioned as to why the gravel trucks have not filled the huge pot holes. Peter Morgan explained that the gravel trucks were busy doing the same thing on the Louth Road and would return to the 78 mile Road once the Louth works have been completed.

Andrew Farnsworth also questioned the cost of moving road crew camps and enquired as to the need to constantly move the camp sites when the crews could travel back and forth. The estimated cost of moving each crew is approx \$3,000.00. He also questioned the reasons behind a stationary grader (Regional Road 7518) on Wednesday 25 August 2012. He was advised that one crew member was off sick one was attending a funeral (Johnny Tulloh) and the other was at a Chemcert Course Training.

Justin McClure thanked the Council for travelling to Tilpa to attend the meeting and a chance to meet the staff. He also feels that the Council is doing things smarter and he also feels that Craig Hudson (Rural Supervisor) is doing a good job and has excellent communication skills. Mr. McClure also thanked Council for stretching the money to seal 8 kms on Regional Road 7518.

Signs were again an ongoing issue. Justin McClure explained that the 78 Mile Regional Road has had no sign for at least twelve months. He also enquired as to the availability of a "Tilpa via Dunoak" sign and when it will be available. It was noted that a follow up with RMS was needed to find the status of the sign.

There was also a concern for Acres Billabong and the causeway that has washed away and the need for it to be fixed as it is a hazard.

The question was raised as to the plan to sell a grader from Euabalong. Mayor Brady explained that Euabalong has a four man crew and one has retired so the possibility of replacing him is extremely unlikely. That leaves an idle grader, so it was suggested that Council sell the oldest of the graders (Cobar Shire presently has 6 graders) and hopefully utilize the money from the sale for a patching crew etc.

Andrew Farnsworth enquired into the possible spraying of vegetation on the Barrier Highway road sides and suggested that it needs doing urgently.

Councillor Sinclair suggested that Cobar Shire Council contact Central Darling Shire to compare applications for flood damage funding. He also suggested that we invite Central Darling Shire to our Rural Roads Advisory Committee meetings.

STATUS REPORT

RRC.08 2012

George Milliar had issues with Cobar Shire Council road crews and the general public driving on the wet roads after road closures has been issued. How to police this was discussed at length and some suggestions put forward were – To make an example of anyone caught, signs situated outside of towns, close roads with a sign placed directly in the middle of the road, cameras and general common sense.

Councillor Sinclair suggested that the Roads Act needs to be addressed and possibly overhauled and lobbying of the State Government may help. The issue of signs (approx 20) that Andrew Paul has picked up off the road near Angel Pass, have not been collected by Council staff.

Justin McClure spoke of shooting being allowed on National Parks for culling purposes and it was suggested that contact be made with Mr. Paul Seaguard, District Manager for Broken Hill. Andrew Farnsworth supplied contact number. 0880803224.

Items that have been completed and removed from the Status Report include;

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- (9) SR32 – Road washouts
 - (13) MR461 and SR26 – Road grading
 - (14) MR7518 – Sealing
 - (16) MR7522 – Potholes
 - (17) MR7522 - Grading
 - (21) SR21 – Concrete removed
 - (23) SR17 – Signs Secured
 - (25) SR19 & 21 – Grading
 - (26) SR7 – Vegetation slashed
 - (27) SR31 – Washouts

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held at Cobar Shire Council Chambers on Wednesday 7 November 2012, commencing at 2.00pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.16PM

CONFIRMED

MINUTE NO

MAYOR