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**MINUTES OF THE RURAL ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD AT MT HOPE ON WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2012  
COMMENCING AT 10.15AM.**

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**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) Carly Hunter (Technical/Administration Officer – Contracts, Cobar Shire Council) Andrew Farnsworth, Keith Norris, Sue Prendergast (Ex Assist/Engineering Services), Bob Wynne, Danni Ward, Jean Cowles, Martin Doyle, Peter Maxwell, Rod Forsyth, Karen Baldacchino, Marlene Forsyth.

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**APOLOGIES**

**RRC.02.2012**     **RECOMMENDATION:** That the apologies received from Councillor Michael Cox (Cobar Shire Council), Councillor Greg Martin (Cobar Shire Council), Councillor Angela Webb (Cobar Shire Council), Councillor Marsha Isbester (Cobar Shire Council), Justine McClure, Julie McClure, Robert Neate, Pauline, Barry and Paul Oliver, Jacqueline Mills, Lance McBride, George Millear, David Greer, Cheryn Greer.

*Dani Ward/Martin Doyle*

**CARRIED**

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**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RRC.02.2012**     **RECOMMENDATION:** That the minutes of the Rural Roads Advisory Committee held on the 2 November 2011 were passed as a true and correct record of the proceeding, of that meeting.

*Bob Sinclair/Andrew Farnsworth*

**CARRIED**

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**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / STATUS REPORT**

As discussed in the previous minutes it was suggested that Mayor Lilliane Brady OAM apply for more funding for roads. Lilliane Brady advised the committee that Council is always actively rallying for funding.

Andrew Farnsworth questioned if the road name signs have been erected yet. Peter Morgan informed the committee that the signs are at Council and ready to be put up.

**BUDGET ISSUES**

A discussion was had regarding Councils financial issues. Garry Woodman, General Manager believes that rate payers should be made aware of Councils financial problems. It was also discussed as to how we bring expenditure down and Gary Woodman spoke of all the different outside agencies that council supports and that

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perhaps some of them need to be accountable for their budgets. i.e. – Lilliane Brady Village – RTA, Centre link and Cobar youth centre.

Gary noted that all rate payers need to know about Councils current debts. Mayor Brady added that we need to pull our belts in.

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### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Concerns raised about sign posts that keep falling down, that have been shot and some that have faded. It was raised if the signs could be repainted; this is not something that is achievable. Concerns were raised that the grader operators are not picking up fallen signs. It was suggested that the operators could start making an effort to fix these signs up as they go. Martin Doyle suggests that a list be created of signs that need attending to. Gary Woodman suggested that land holders photograph and email evidence to the Shire of the damaged signs. Council would like to have a sign crew, but due to limited funds this is not possible. They are concentrating on the main roads first.

Martin Doyle brought to the Committee's attention that there are a number of dangerous ramps in the Shire. In particular Shire Road 20, the second ramp in "Carowie" on the bitumen. Also on Shire Road 21, at the old "Pinnacles Homestead" turn off, there are cement foundations from an old grid still in the road and they are now exposed and quite dangerous. It was also noted that Shire Road 21 is always very rough, has corrugations and has had a severe lack of maintenance. It was noted that ramps on shire roads always remain the responsibility of the land owner, not Council.

Danni Ward enquired if the area (SR 20, 21) is due for a grade. The committee was advised that funding is very limited and the possibility of grading is low. Comments were made that these roads really need to be graded before harvest (October). The idea of a partial grade was raised.

Gary Woodman advised that Council has taken on a new approach towards grading, endeavoring to do the job properly so it will last longer.

It was noted that the RTA will only restore the road to its previous state, not improve it after flood damage. The committee was made aware that there are different rules in place for each state concerning natural disasters and storm damage and this is why it appears that Western Councils are getting less funding from flood damage.

The committee was advised that Council has adopted 4 Top Roads of priority for funding-These include: MR- 407 – Louth

RR- 7518 – Tilpa

MR- 416 /MR-7522

MR-461 – Balowra Road

Andrew Farnsworth raised concerns about Shire Road 9 – Neckarbo Road. Stephen Taylor advised the committee that a report has already been to Council and no funding was committed for that road.

Bob Sinclair believes that Council needs to push for flood damage funding that goes towards fixing and preventing so it can withstand future flooding.

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Mayor Brady enquires if the RTA could be included in the Rural Roads Advisory Committee Meetings and it was noted that they were asked twelve months ago and declined.

Council hired a slasher from Bourke Council and was very successful and when Council is in a better financial position they would like to purchase one for Cobar.

The mitre drains on various roads are not in good working order and are not taking the water off the roads.

In the Black Range area the timber has grown right up to the edge of the road and does not allow gravel to be pushed away and this in turn caused problems.

It was noted that the signs on Shire Road 17 keep blowing over. They need to be secured as this is the road has washed away.

Bob Sinclair offered congratulations on the work that has been done on Shire Road 12 (Angels Pass). The road, however, to Cobar is terrible and has had no work done in it in 12 months.

Andrew Farnsworth spoke about Rural Road 7518- one end is cut off by flood water and the other is washed out. The large number of grain trucks travelling over it does not help. He stated that the Buckanbee, Dunoak and Tillpilly roads are in good condition. Andrew was also very impressed with the poisoning done along the Barrier Highway by RFS on the sides of the road.

There is a rough ramp on "Carowie" on Shire Road 20. This property is owned by Mr Alistair Mansley and he needs to be notified and also made aware that the upkeep of ramps remains the responsibility of the land holder.

Stephen Taylor suggested a ramp register that contains all ramps and an identification number so when a complaint comes in it can be address immediately. It was also suggested that a reminder letter be sent to all landholders reminding them of their responsibilities.

It was suggested that particularly on roads were school children travel regularly they should become a priority.

Peter Maxwell discussed Shire Road 36 and discussed how the scrub has grown right up to the side of the road. He believes that spraying as apposed to grading could be cheaper on an unsealed road like this.

**Note** – Peter will bring all correspondence relevant to this issue to the next meeting.

Shire Road 19 and 21 are in desperate need of grading. Back to road base in some areas.

It was noted that Danni Ward submitted her resignation form the committee and that Peter Maxwell will be taking over from her.

Mayor Brady thanked Danni for all her work on the committee.

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**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is to be held at Berangabah commencing at 10.00am Wednesday 2 May 2012.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.15PM**

**CONFIRMED.....**

**MINUTE NO.....**

**MAYOR.....**