
**MINUTES OF THE RURAL ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT MT HOPE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6
FEBRUARY 2013 COMMENCING AT 10.15 AM.**

PRESENT

Gary Woodman (General Manager, Cobar Shire Council), Peter Graf (Director of Engineering Services, Cobar Shire Council), Peter Morgan (Works Manager, Cobar Shire Council), Keith Norris, Christine Norris, Councillor Greg Martin (Cobar Shire Council), Andrew Farnsworth, Robert Neate, Councillor Peter Maxwell (Cobar Shire Council), Jacqui Mills, Martin Doyle, Michael Cavalot, (Sue Prendergast (Executive Assistant - Engineering Services, Cobar Shire Council).

Due to an apology from the Mayor Councillor Lilliane Brady OAM, Councillor Greg Martin was requested and agreed to chair the meeting.

APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION: That the apologies received from Councillor Lilliane Brady OAM (Mayor Cobar Shire Council), Justin McClure, Marlene Forsyth, Rod Forsyth, George Millear, Councillor Bob Sinclair, (Cobar Shire Council), Marsha Isbester, (Cobar Shire Council), Rod Fyfe be accepted.

Keith Norris / Gary Woodman

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION: That the minutes of the Rural Roads Advisory Committee held on 7 November 2012 , at Cobar Shire Council Chambers, be passed as a true and correct record of the proceeding, of that meeting.

Gary Woodman / Keith Norris

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Gary Woodman spoke of the NRMA funded short film produced for Cobar Shire Council highlighting the appalling conditions of our roads and the safety concerns of the landholders who primarily use these roads. Council is currently waiting on confirmation that the film has been completed and ready for distribution. The ongoing issue of funding for our roads, or lack of it, was raised again and Gary Woodman suggested that contact should be made with the Local State Member and let him know of your concerns.

Martin Doyle made the suggestion that contractors be employed to do road works in our Shire. Gary Woodman explained that it is approximately 20% cheaper to use Council employees rather than contractors. The Council employees are available when needed and are trained in their relevant fields. Mr. Doyle also inquired into the

idea of Council staff multi-tasking whilst out working on the roads. Gary Woodman explained that Council crews each have specific job description i.e. sign crews do signs etc but when practical, all types of work is undertaken.

Road closure signage was again discussed and it was suggested that a fold down sign resembling a barrier with appropriate wording i.e. {"unsealed roads not to be used in wet weather"}) be positioned on all roads when necessary, however, in complying with legislation this is not enough. It was put to the Committee that an education campaign be implement to inform the public of the cost and inconvenience of driving on a road when it has been deemed closed.

Councillor Martin suggested that the general consensus is that all signs in Cobar Shire need to be replaced or fixed. The approximate cost to replace signs would be \$290,000.00.

Peter Maxwell raised the issue of quarries and that Crown Lands are happy to allow new pits in emergency situations. Follow up to be undertaken with Crown Lands and Western Division concerning the use of gravel pits and use of new locations in emergencies.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Jacqui Mills inquired into the possibility of having a grid reinstated on Shire Road 13 (Lerida Road) as the Cobar Shire have at some stage filled the grid and sealed it. Jacqui made the request on behalf of Western Lands. Peter Morgan to investigate. It was suggested that landholders be notified of the standards and policies of maintaining grids on their properties i.e. all grids that are being replaced need to be replaced with a double grid and stock gates.

Andrew Farnsworth, on behalf of himself and his family, wanted to thank Cobar Shire Council on the outstanding help they received when a fire broke out on their property. He explained that without Cobar Shire Council's help a lot more damaged would have occurred. He also inquired into machinery that was left near his property, by Council, and when it was going to be collected. Peter Morgan explained that due to staff shortages and staff on annual leave being the main reason.

Councillor Martin inquired if Council could look at implementing a weed spraying program incorporating Cobar Shire Councils Weeds Officer.

STATUS REPORT

That the information contained in the monthly status report be received and noted and that items 28 and 31 be removed from the status report.

Gary Woodman / Peter Morgan

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 1 May 2013 at Councillor Sinclair's property "Berangabah" commencing at 10.00am.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.10 PM.

CONFIRMED

MINUTE NO

MAYOR