
**MINUTES OF THE RURAL ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT TILPA COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7 AUGUST
2013 COMMENCING AT 10.35 AM.**

PRESENT

Mayor Lilliane Brady OAM (Cobar Shire Council), Gary Woodman (General Manager, Cobar Shire Council), Peter Graf (Director of Engineering Services, Cobar Shire Council), Kingsley Page (Works Manager, Cobar Shire Council), (Andrew Farnsworth (Innesowen Station), Councillor Bob Sinclair (Berangabah Station), Ross Ilett (Bulla Bulla Station) Jenny Ilett (Bulla Bulla Station), Jacqui Mills (Dept of Crown Lands), Herb Hemley, Julie McClure (Kallara Station), Alex Tutt-Branco, George Milliar (Tilagoona Station), Stuart LeLievre (Yathong Station), Michael McInerney (Polocara Station), Carol Williams, (Sue Prendergast (Executive Assistant/Engineering Services, Cobar Shire Council).

APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION: That the apologies received from Justin McClure, Pauline and Barry Oliver, Robert Neate and Tony Ryan be accepted.

Bob Sinclair/Julie McClure

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION: That the minutes of the Rural Roads Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 1 May at “Berangabah” Station be adopted as a true and correct record of the proceedings, of that meeting.

Bob Sinclair/Gary Woodman

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The issue of the Carbon Sequestration Project and the potential damage that might be done to RR7518 was again raised and Jacqui Mills enquired into the exploration licence and exploration camps on Western Land leases that require crown land licence. Mayor Brady explained that Gary Woodman and she will be attending an Association of Mining Related Council meeting on Friday 9 August 2013 and hoped to raise some of these questions at that meeting.

Julie McClure explained that it is important to encourage exploration and this project is just potentially exploration and that the traffic numbers may not increase as much as expected and Julie also explained that it would be beneficial to everyone if Council supports this project.

Andrew Farnsworth inquired into the possibility of the Carbon Sequestration Project Company being responsible for the maintenance of the road and any damage that could/would be caused

Jacqui Mills again raised the issue of the culvert on Lerida Road Shire Road 13A opposite Mackenzie Mine site South of Cobar. Jacqui also produced photographs of said culvert. Kingsley Page, Cobar Shire Council's Works Manager explained that he was aware of the situation and was in the process of acting on it.

Andrew Farnsworth enquired into the progress of Deb and Chris Bourke's road issues with the possibility of the closure of the Mt Gap Road which currently runs through their property. It was explained that the matter is now before the next Council meeting scheduled to be held Thursday 22 August 2013.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Roads Advisory Committee support Debbie and Chris Bourke in their endeavor to have this matter resolved.

Voting was unanimous

CARRIED

STATUS REPORT:

Item 29 – That Cobar Shire Council be congratulated on the work that has been done on Angels Pass but unfortunately north of the pass the road is in terrible condition.

Item 2 - The issue of naming of MR7518 and SR2 as the 52 or The Fifty-Two Mile Road and the 78 or The Seventy-Eight Mile Road was again raised and the committee was assured that Council is currently attempting to have these roads re-named. Staff changes and budgetary issues are the main problems causing this to stall.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Cobar Shire Council continues to work with the Geographical Names Board to have these roads officially named as Fifty-Two Mile Road and Seventy-Eight Mile Road.

Michael McInerney/Andrew Farnsworth

CARRIED

Julie McClure enquired into the possibility of having the spelling of some Property names checked. i.e. Tiltagoona – Teltagoona – Tiltagoonah. Gary Woodman suggested that when our rural addressing program is up and running all of these issues including lot numbers etc that are essential for emergency services will be corrected. Gary also spoke of the potential cost (approx \$100,000) just to replace signs that are missing or have been stolen or vandalised. The protocols for rural addressing are complex, time consuming and it is a constant work in progress.

The problem of irregular and insufficient phone coverage is another issued that was raised and the landholders who live in this area have major concerns for their safety in the case of an emergency and they have no phone coverage. Mayor Brady explained that this is one topic that she and Gary Woodman are constantly fighting for. Stuart LeLievre suggested that landholders should contact National Broad Band Network and apply for discounts for customers in isolated area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Local Member be invited to assist in obtaining costing for remote and rural landholders in isolated areas to have access to cheaper broadband through the NBN.

Bob Sinclair/Stuart Le Lievre

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS:

George Millear has major issues with Cobar Shire Council's grader driver who was grading the road and accidentally fill George's grid with excess soil. Due to the grid being filled with soil some of his stock had gotten through and into the next paddock. George proceeded to call Councils Rural Supervisor Craig Hudson and Craig agreed to meet with George on the Saturday where they had a discussion. George was told that Council would clean out the grid but he must cover half the cost as the grid was already half full with soil. The main concern of Mr Millear was ultimately the cost.

Gary Woodman suggested that this conversation should not be held in the public arena.

The issue of who is responsible for the maintenance of grids again became a contentious issue and when presented with a copy of Cobar Shire Council's "*The approval, installation and Maintenance of Stock Control Structures in Public Roads – (Public gates, grids, ramps and stock races)*" policy which was adopted by Council on 28 February 2013 which comes in under the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Roads Act 1993* which stipulates that any grids on roads that pass through their property are the responsibility of the landholder.

Julie McClure inquired as to whether Council could revisit the Policy and work together with the landholders.

Stuart Le Lievre requested that Council look for correspondence sent to him in approximately 1995 concerning who was responsible for the maintenance of grids on public roads.

Kingsley Page explained that there is some money available for sealing on either side of the grids on the Fifty-Two Mile Road. Hopefully boundary grids can be done in conjunction with the RMS proposed project.

It was suggested that Council put a copy of the grids policy in with the next round of rate notices due to be sent out in September. This way all landholders/rate payers in the Shire will receive a copy. It is hoped that the landholders take on board Cobar Shire Council's current grid policy and as a Council we will endeavor to promote and advertise the policy.

Councillor Bob Sinclair questioned the quality of the gravel being used on The Wool Track and the size of some of the rocks. Bob maintains that the work that has been done on the road is of good quality but it's just the size of the rocks that are now lying in the table drains. He asked the question that we may need to look at obtaining a better quality of gravel. Peter Graf and Kingsley Page are currently looking into this very issue.

Julie McClure inquired into the possibility of having traffic counters put in place at the end of the Tilpa Road. Julie maintains that Stephen Taylor promised her traffic reports 12 months ago.

The idea of hiring Mike Cain who is grader operator to do works for Cobar Shire Council was raised and it was decided that there is only sufficient money available for our own crews without bringing in contractors.

George Millear inquired into the status of road closure signs and were we progressing, Gary Woodman explained that currently there is no progression.

Julie McClure inquired into whether Council has a road open/closure policy. She feels that the Tilpa road, after a closure notice, needs to open as quickly as possible for the tourist trade that goes through.

Andrew Farnsworth congratulated the Council and grader operator Brett Dunne on a good job on The Seventy-Eight Mile Road. He feels that it has held up well but due to recent rainfall the other section of road is falling apart. He feels that the last 3 km needs patching or re-sealing, however he is aware of our budgetary restraints.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 6 November 2013 at Cobar Shire Council Chambers commencing at 2.00pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.50PM.