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**MINUTES OF THE RURAL ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD AT “BERANGABAH” STATION (The Wool Track) ON  
WEDNESDAY 1 MAY 2013 COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM.**

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**PRESENT**

Gary Woodman (General Manager, Cobar Shire Council), Peter Graf (Director of Engineering Services, Cobar Shire Council), Maurice Bell (Acting Works Manager/Contracts Manager, Cobar Shire Council), Keith Norris (Coan Downs), Councillor Greg Martin (Cobar Shire Council), Andrew Farnsworth (Innesowen Station), Robert Neate (Mopone Station), Councillor Peter Maxwell (Cobar Shire Council), Jacqui Mills, Leonie Sinclair (Berangabah Station), Councillor Bob Sinclair (Berangabah Station), Donna Whytcross (Kia Ora Station), Paul Whytcross (Kia Ora Station), Andrew Paul,(Red Tank), Stephen Roberts, (Ashleigh Downs Station), Deb Bourke, (Mt Gap Station), Chris Bourke (Mt Gap Station), Dianne Noble (Karwarn Station), Dave Worsnop (Yarambie Station), Jenni Rogers (Kulwin Station), Pauline Oliver (Kaleno Station), (Sue Prendergast (Executive Assistant - Engineering Services, Cobar Shire Council).

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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, George Millear, Jenny Paul, Anne, Rob and Graham Vagg and Annemarie Murphy, be accepted.

*Keith Norris / Gary Woodman*

**CARRIED**

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**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the minutes of the Rural Roads Advisory Committee held on 6 February 2013 held at Mt Hope, be adopted as a true and correct record of the proceedings, of that meeting.

*Gary Woodman / Keith Norris*

**CARRIED**

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**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The issue of the filled in grid on Shire Road 13 (Lerida Road) and the possibility of having it re-instated was raised again and will be followed up with the Landholder and Jacki Mills.

Andrew Farnsworth reported that all of Cobar Shire Council’s equipment that was stored on his property has since been removed.

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Keith Norris enquired into the status of the two gravel pits on his property and if Council intended on re-opening these pits and utilizing them.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

Gary Woodman spoke of the time line involved in the adoption of Cobar Shire Councils Annual Operational Plan and that a draft copy of the plan is on public display. The plan contains 2013/2014 Budget, Revenue Policy and the 2013/2014 Fees and Charges. The public has until Monday June 17 2013 to put forward any concerns or issues they may have. Gary Woodman also explained that there will be a public meeting on Tuesday June 11 2013 at the Council Chambers to explain and answer questions concerning the Annual Operational Plan.

The concerns of our road network falling apart was also discussed and Gary Woodman explained that we basically need \$8 million just for asset work and to do what basically needs to be done.

The idea of a register of all grids (public gates) including the condition of them along with a numbering system could be put in place.

A definition of who is responsible for the maintenance of these grids is explained in Cobar Shire Council's Policy and a copy of this Policy can be viewed on Council's website. The Policy clearly states that the Landholder is solely responsible for all grids on the road through their property.

It was suggested that Council make all Landholders aware of the Policy on the approval, installation and maintenance of all grids. This could be done via the Council newsletter which is sent out quarterly or the introduction of a Rural Residential Pack which could be filled with information for the Landholders.

Jacki Mills and Robert Neate joined the meeting at 10.40am with late apologies.

Paul Whytcross inquired as to why the first grid at Meadows on the Ivanhoe Road at the end of the sealed section has not been removed after a grader has gone over it.

Maurice Bell explained that the cost of cleaning out the grid is the same as removing it. It was also discussed that a Council grader can run over a double grid and possibly fill it with soil where as the grader cannot fit over a single grid. Maurice Bell went on to explain the grader drivers do not deliberately grade soil into the grids he said that 90% of it is actually traffic soil. Grids need to be sealed 10 metres each side to stop this happening. The 10 metres of sealing, in normal circumstances would be the responsibility of the Landholder.

Maurice Bell spoke of the need of a register, not just for the grids but also for bores, tanks and gravel pits.

The problem with getting the public gate register up and running is that some Landholders are unwilling to participate and budgetary restraints. It is hoped that the register will be updated eventually.

Dianne Noble expressed her concerns with the dangerous state of the grid near Buckanbool homestead. It appears that the cross members may have dropped on either side.

Andrew Paul is concerned about the lack of communication or cooperation between Cobar Shire Council and Landholders.

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Councillor Martin spoke of the need for all ratepayers to contact our local member the Hon. Kevin Humphries MP and or the Hon. Duncan Gay MLC, to improve funding to Council for Regional Roads.

Bob Sinclair expressed his concerns about the Regional Roads money not being spent where it is needed. He also spoke of the expectation that all roads in the shire will be graded once every year. This is now not Council's Policy.

Andrew Paul spoke in length of his concerns with Shire Road 32 and the damage that Council has caused and recently repaired. He questioned the cost to Council. He also explained that the Cobar Mailman would not travel on this road as it was deemed unsafe.

Maurice Bell explained that it took approximately 2 weeks to repair at a cost to Council of an estimated \$30,000.

The idea of collecting local knowledge to update registers which include gravel pits, bores, tanks and grids was put forward. Most owners are aware of where the gravel pits are located on their property but again lack of finance stops Council from putting this process into action.

The main problem, Gary Woodman explained is that everyone wants their particular road fixed and this is just not possible. He also expressed the need for all landholders to write to the Minister for Roads, the Hon Duncan Gay MLC and their local member Hon. Kevin Humphries MP, in regard to the Regional Road Network and try and make them aware of the road conditions. Unfortunately after all technical analysis has been done and the results show exactly where the work needs to be done, the politics then comes into play.

Councillor Sinclair after reading the Local and Regional Road Reports expressed concerns with the cost of a grade on the Wool Track being \$3,000 per km, whereas it has been estimated that grading should cost approximately \$1,000 per km.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Rural Roads Advisory Committee invite local member, the Hon. Kevin Humphries MP and, the Minister for Roads, the Hon. Duncan Gay MLC to the Rural Roads Meeting Advisory Committee in Tilpa scheduled to be held on Wednesday 7 August 2013.

*Andrew Farnsworth/Dianne Noble*

**CARRIED**

The status of the rural addressing system was again an issue raised and Gary Woodman explained that it is still sometime away from being completed due to the fact that we need a grant to complete the project. The major cost involved is signage at \$100, 000 and another \$30,000 – \$40,000 needed for other overall costs.

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### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Peter Maxwell suggested that Council ensure investigation keep from dragging gravel past other pits as this was time consuming when there is already a viable pit close by.

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Dave Worsnop expressed his concerns with SR20 South of the T piece where there is a warning sign and he feels that it should be moved to allow more time for stopping.

Keith Norris requested permission to put a concrete slab down for the table and chairs at the rest stop behind the fire shed near the Hotel. Gary Woodman explained that he needs the request in writing and possible some photos along with it.

Andrew Farnsworth stated that RR7518 is in a deplorable state from Innesowen to Tiltagoona and the table drain is full of silt. The sealing on the road is starting to break up along the 52 mile road. Andrew suggested that the gravel that was used on the road was not up to standard. Maurice Bell questioned whether the gravel was too clayey as this can also cause the road to break up.

Andrew Farnsworth also spoke of the possibility of a Carbon Sequestration Project being started and a camp being set up on RR7518. His main concern was that the project would increase traffic.

Deb Bourke spoke of her frustration with the possible closing of the Mt Gap road which presently goes through her property almost to the Mt Gap/Blue Hills boundary as shown on Cobar Shire Council's Map. Council is liaising with Crown Lands to make a final decision on where the road will finish.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 7 August 2013 at Tilpa Community Hall commencing at 10.00am.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1.45 PM.**